

STARS AND STRIPES®

**'JAG' works
Iraq war
into its plot**

Page 18



Actress
Catherine
Bell
in 'JAG'

**Iraqi journalist,
son gunned down
by militants**

Page 3



Boston
College
guard
Jared
Dudley

**BC streak comes
to an end
in South Bend**

Back page

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2005

Army pushes for fixed rest periods for deployed troops

Plan calls for 1 year on, 2 years at home for active duty, to start in '07 Page 8



Army starts issuing uniform with major makeovers

Page 5

Brig. Gen. Rich McPhee, left, and Col. John Norwood talk Tuesday while their troops from the 48th Infantry Brigade, Georgia Army National Guard, receive new combat uniforms at Fort Stewart, Ga. McPhee is dressed in the old-style uniform while Norwood is dressed in the new uniform. The pattern for the new camouflage coat and trousers is a mix of light green, tan and gray and is designed to allow soldiers to blend into urban, desert and forest environments.

AP
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PETER PHOTIKOE/Stars and Stripes

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

French workweek: French lawmakers voted Wednesday to let workers stay on the job as many as 13 hours longer each week, a preliminary move that critics say will dismantle the nation's legally mandated 35-hour work week.

In a first reading, the lower house of parliament voted 370-180 to approve a proposal allowing private sector employees to work up to 48 hours each week — the European Union limit.

The measure now goes to the Senate for debate next month.

Madrid train bombings: A judge sent two more Moroccans to jail Wednesday on provisional charges of collaborating with a terrorist group in connection with the Madrid train bombings last year, a court official said.

Rachid Mohamed Kaddur and Rachid Bendaouda had been questioned first by National Court Judge Juan Del Olmo on Monday evening, but the judge had extended their detention order another 48 hours until police gathered more information about them.

Mohamed Kaddur, a 35-year-old Spaniard, was arrested Thursday night in Melilla, one of two Spanish enclaves on the coast of Morocco. Bendaouda was arrested Wednesday in the Madrid neighborhood of Lavapiés. Both are believed to have met with key bombing suspect Abdennabi Kounjaa the day before the attacks.

Disgraced Pakistani scientist: Pakistan said Wednesday the case of disgraced nuclear scientist A.Q. Khan was still open but it has received no new evidence to suggest that his black market network had sold technology to more countries than earlier thought.

Last February, President Gen. Pervez Musharraf pardoned Khan after he confessed to supplying sensitive technology to Iran, Libya and North Korea. But this week Time magazine reported that U.S. officials also were investigating whether the scientist's network might have supplied Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries.

Pakistan denies there was any official involvement in Khan's illegal nuclear trading, which earned the scientist a fortune.

British sub in Gibraltar: A British nuclear submarine which angered Spain when it docked at Gibraltar for repairs left the disputed colony Wednesday as promised, a British military official based in Gibraltar said.

The HMS Sceptre arrived in Gibraltar last Thursday for repairs to what Britain called a faulty diesel generator.

Spain lodged a diplomatic protest with Britain, urging it not to send any more nuclear ships to Gibraltar.

Opium poppy crop: Claims that planes sprayed opium poppy fields in southern Afghanistan are unfounded, the government said Wednesday, heading off a fresh row over how to tackle the world's largest illegal drug industry.

Investigators sent to Helmand province after farmers in four villages alleged last week that mystery planes dusted their fields established that plant disease, not herbicides, was to blame, the Interior Ministry



Tsunami relief: An Acehese girl looks on Wednesday as residents search for used clothes donated by an aid agency on a beach in the tsunami-ravaged town of Calang, Aceh province. Indonesia said 640 more bodies had been pulled from the rubble in the province hit by the Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunami, raising the country's confirmed death toll to 116,396.

said.

The claim was "propaganda" aimed at driving a wedge between local communities, the government and its international donors, he said.

Military

Air Force Academy alcohol abuse: Alcohol offenses at the Air Force Academy jumped 57 percent last semester, largely because of an incident in which 15 underage cadets were drinking at a retreat, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

The Gazette of Colorado Springs, citing academy officials, said there were 74 alcohol offenses between June and December, compared with 47 in the same period in 2003.

Alcohol is a crucial issue at the school near Colorado Springs: Forty percent of sexual assaults in which two cadets were involved in the past 10 years also involved drinking, according to a 2003 Air Force investigation.

U.S. nuclear weapons in Europe: A private arms control group says the United States still deploys 480 nuclear weapons in Europe, more than twice what military analysts previously estimated. It said there was no justification for such stockpiles since the Soviet threat no longer exists.

The report by the Natural Resources Defense Council said the weapons are stored at eight bases in six countries — Germany, Britain, Italy, Belgium, Turkey and the Netherlands.

States

Jammed N.H. telephone lines: The former head of a Republican consulting group was sentenced Tuesday to five months in jail for jamming Democratic telephone lines in several New Hampshire cit-

ies during the 2002 election.

Allen Raymond, 37, who was president of the Alexandria, Va.-based GOP marketplace LLC at the time, did not comment as he left the U.S. District Court sentencing. He also was fined \$15,600. He had pleaded guilty in June.

Court papers say Raymond and co-conspirators plotted to jam Democratic lines that voters could call for rides to the polls in Manchester, Nashua, Rochester and Claremont.

Presidential public financing: Two election officials on Wednesday renewed a proposal to overhaul the Watergate-era presidential public financing system, this time suggesting that candidates who take taxpayer money for the primaries get to spend at the record levels President Bush and rival John Kerry did during last year's race.

The first step for Congress is deciding whether the system should be maintained or abolished, Federal Election Commission Chairman Scott Thomas and Vice Chairman Michael Toner wrote in a letter to congressional leaders. If it keeps public financing for the presidential race, the program should be substantially changed to make it more attractive to candidates, they said.

War on terrorism

Terror group leader's death: The alleged ringleader of a terror group accused of plotting to attack Americans and Kuwaiti security forces has died of heart failure while in prison, an Interior Ministry official said Wednesday.

Amr Khalaf al-Enezi, believed to be in his 30s, had trouble breathing while in prison. He was moved the Kuwaiti Armed Forces Hospital, where he died late Tuesday, according to the official and the state-owned Kuwait News Agency.

Photo and stories from wire services

Correction

In a Feb. 9 story about a federal court ruling, The Associated Press erroneously reported that a judge dismissed a lawsuit challenging the Army's right to force soldiers to serve past the dates of their enlistments. Instead, the judge rejected Spc. David Qualles' request for a preliminary injunction that would have removed him from active duty. He and seven other soldiers had filed suit challenging their active-duty extensions. That remains before the court.

Clarification

A headline with Wednesday's story about a transfer of authority from the 1st Infantry Division's 4th Aviation Brigade has turned over its aircraft support mission to the 42nd Infantry Division.

Comics
every day
in Stars
and Stripes

Gunmen kill Iraqi journalist, son

Officials say election results to be delayed

BY MARIAM FAM

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Amid spiraling postelection violence, gunmen killed an Iraqi journalist working for a U.S.-funded TV station and his 3-year-old son as they left their home Wednesday in the southern city of Basra, an official said. Two U.S. soldiers were reported slain in separate attacks.

In Basra, Abdul Hussein Khazal Al-Basri, the correspondent of Al-Hurra TV station, and his son were both killed in the city's Maqal area, 340 miles southeast of Baghdad, said Nazim al Moussawi, a spokesman for the local government administration.

Launched in February 2004, Al-Hurra, or "The Free," was tailored for Arab audiences to compete with other regional stations like Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiya. President Bush said it was created to "cut through the hateful propaganda that fills the airwaves in the Muslim world," but some clerics have denounced the TV station for broadcasting its own brand of propaganda.

Al-Basri also was a member of the political office of the Islamic Da'wa Party, an influential Shiite movement, and the editor of a newspaper in Basra, Iraq's second-largest city. He also headed the press office at Basra City Council, al-Moussawi said.

Also Wednesday, Iraqi officials delayed the announcement of final results from landmark national elections because they said the election commission must recount votes from about 300 ballot boxes.

An undetermined number of other ballots were declared invalid because of alleged tampering, officials said. The ballots were inside 40 boxes and another 250 boxes that were delivered to the central counting facility in Baghdad, he said.

Final results from the Jan. 30 balloting were to be announced Thursday. But spokesmen for Ayar said the deadline would slip due to the need for a recount.

"We don't know when this will finish," he said. "This will lead to a little postponement in announcing the results."

Ayar would not say where the 300 ballot boxes came from.

Commission official Adel al-Lami said the ballots in the 40 boxes and 250 boxes would not be counted because they appeared to have been stuffed inside them or, in some cases, improperly filled.

Some of the boxes were not properly addressed



Mourners ride with the coffin of Abdul Hussein al-Basri, correspondent for the U.S.-funded Al-Hurra television station, and his son, in the southern city of Basra in Iraq on Wednesday, after the two were killed by gunmen in the Maqal area of the city.

by the commission, and others were improperly sealed, he said.

Commission officials have previously said some ballot boxes were stolen by armed groups and returned to polling stations. Al-Lami said bribes were offered to staffers if they would accept the boxes, which he said came from different parts of Iraq.

No new partial results have been released since Monday for the voting for the 275-member National Assembly, 18 provincial councils and a regional parliament for the Kurdish self-governing region in the north.

Partial results released Monday showed a coalition of Kurdish parties in second place.

The ticket of interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, a secular Shiite, is in third place among the 111 candidate lists. A Shiite-dominated ticket endorsed by Iraq's most influential Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, led with about half the votes, followed by the coalition of Kurdish parties.

If that reflects the final lineup, it appears unlikely that Allawi could emerge as a compromise choice for prime minister when the new assembly convenes by early March.

A military statement said one U.S. soldier died Tuesday of a gunshot wound at a logistical support area in Balad, 50 miles north of Baghdad. The second soldier was shot and killed Sunday while on patrol in Mosul, the U.S. command said.

In Iraq's oil-rich north, saboteurs set off explosives Wednesday at a gas pipeline in Fatha district, 15 miles north of Beji, setting it on fire, officials said.

One policeman was injured as workers put out the blaze, which was expected to affect the production of electrical power, police said. Officials did not say how long it would take to repair.

In Rome, the newspaper that employs an Italian journalist held hostage in Iraq said Wednesday it has indications she is alive and that intelligence officials have established indirect contact with the kidnappers.

Giuliana Spreng, a reporter for communist daily Il Manifesto, was abducted by gunmen Friday outside Baghdad University.

Conflicting claims have appeared on Islamic militant Web sites: One said she had been killed, while another said she would be released soon.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

By The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2005, at least 1,450 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,107 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is five higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Tuesday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,312 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 998 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Spc. Jeremy O. Allmon, 22, Cleburne, Texas, died Sunday in Taji, Iraq, when an explosive detonated near his vehicle; assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

■ Army Staff Sgt. Steven G. Bayow, 42, Colonia, Yap Island, died Saturday of a Mi-17 helicopter crash in Bayji, Iraq, when an explosive hit his vehicle; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.

■ Army Spc. Daniel Torres, 23, Fort Worth, Texas, died Friday in Bayji, Iraq, when an explosive hit his vehicle; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.

Trials for some of Saddam's regime to begin soon

BY JASON KEYSER

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Trials for some of Saddam Hussein's key henchmen are set to begin in several weeks before an Iraqi tribunal that could hand down sentences of death by hanging or firing squad, a Western legal expert familiar with the process said Wednesday.

Investigative judges are close to handing over lengthy dossiers of affidavits, witness statements and other documents to a five-judge chamber that will run the trials, the legal expert told reporters in Baghdad on condition of anonymity.

He would not say which of Saddam's 11 lieutenants are likely to face the Iraqi Special Tribunal first, and it wasn't clear if the former dictator himself would be among the first to be tried.

In December, investigative judges summoned Saddam's cousin Ali Hassan al-Majid, better known as Chemical Ali, for his role in poison gas attacks against Iraq's Kurdish minority, and former Defense Minister Gen. Sultan Hashim Ahmad to appear before them in closed-door preliminary hearings.

The tribunal, which is run according to Iraqi laws on criminal procedure, could sentence some of those found guilty to die by hanging or firing squad.

"Obviously the death penalty is available. Whether or not every case is a death penalty case, I doubt it," the expert said.

Saddam was captured in northern Iraq in December 2003, and others have been in custody for nearly two years. U.S. military officials transferred the 12 defendants to Iraqi custody in June with the handover of sovereignty. They've been held at an undisclosed location believed to be near Baghdad International Airport, west of the capital.

In July, a judge told the group they were being investigated for crimes committed under the former regime. In Saddam's case, he was informed that court officials were investigating him in the killings of rival politicians, the gassing of the Kurds in 1988, invading Kuwait in 1990 and brutally suppressing Kurdish and Shiite uprisings in 1991.

Formal charges won't come until the investigating judges refer the cases to the trial chamber. The first dossiers are expected to be delivered to trial judges and formal proceedings are to begin within several weeks, the legal expert said.

Some of the evidence that's to be presented was recovered from about a dozen mass graves, he said. He refused to say where the graves were located.

All the defendants have met with their lawyers, some of whom had to be appointed by the Iraqi bar association because others refused to take the cases, he said. Saddam has a team of 10 Iraqi lawyers and several dozen others from abroad.

Video cameras and reporters will be allowed into the courtroom, and there will be a limited number of seats for the public in a viewing gallery behind bulletproof glass.

Unlike the legal system in the United States, the Iraqi tribunal will have no jury and the verdicts and sentencing will be handed down through a majority decision of the five-judge panel.

The court will hear from victims, witnesses, a state prosecutor, defense witnesses and in some cases the defendants themselves. Some of the defendants will likely face more than one trial, as numerous charges are normally brought to trial separately under Iraqi law.

Defendants have the right to appeal verdicts to a nine-judge appellate chamber.

British soldier cleared of 1 count of abuse

BY MATT SURMAN
The Associated Press

OSNABRUECK, Germany — A judge hearing the case of three British soldiers accused of abusing detained Iraqis ordered jurors on Wednesday to acquit one of the suspects on a charge of pretending to kick a prisoner.

Lance Cpl. Mark Cooley still faces two charges of abuse, and Judge Michael Hunter refused to allow reporters to publish more details of the decision.

"Although we would wish to tell you ... for legal reasons we can't give a reason at this stage and must ask you to give a verdict of not guilty," Hunter told the jury.

Cooley, 25, is one of three members of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers standing trial on this British base in Germany on charges that they abused Iraqi civilians suspected of looting a humanitarian aid warehouse outside Basra in May 2003.

Cooley also is charged with hoisting a detainee on a forklift and driving it, and with simulating a punch against another detainee, seen in a photograph. He has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Another soldier, Cpl. Daniel

Kenyon, 33, faces charges of aiding and abetting abuse and failing to report it. He has denied the charges.

Lance Cpl. Darren Larkin, 30, already has pleaded guilty to one count of battery after prosecutors charged he was the man shown in a photo standing with both feet on a tied-up Iraqi lying on the ground. Another charge of forcing an Iraqi to strip for simulating sex acts was dropped last week.

Taking the stand Wednesday, Kenyon described the aggressive attitude that existed at the camp before he arrived. He said a security guard at the camp, Sgt. Maj. Richard Jackson, briefed him, telling him: "If we capture anyone, we just give them a kick."

Kenyon also told the court that the soldiers were unclear about their role in Iraq following the end of major combat.

The trial revolves around photos taken by a soldier who was arrested in England after bringing the film to be developed. The pictures provoked widespread display in Britain after they were published in newspapers, leading to uncomfortable comparisons with the scandal over abuse of Iraqi prisoners by U.S. soldiers at the Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad.



This courtroom drawing shows British soldiers Cpl. Daniel Kenyon, left, and Lance Cpl. Mark Cooley, right, in the courtroom of the British Court Center in Osnabrueck, northern Germany. A judge on Wednesday ordered Cooley cleared of a charge of simulating kicking an Iraqi prisoner, but ordered that the legal reasons could not be reported. Cooley still faces two charges of abuse.



A Marine from 1st Division, 3rd Battalion, 5th Regiment takes a picture of an Iraqi during a patrol in the heavily guarded city of Fallujah, Iraq, on Friday. The troops keep the mugshots in case of future troubles.

3 months after U.S. offensive, Fallujah has a different face

The Associated Press

FALLUJAH, Iraq — Iraqis line up in straggling columns, waiting to pass through barbed-wire checkpoints that ring this former insurgent stronghold left battered by intense fighting three months ago. Men stand in one, women and children in another. The few cars form a third.

They are returning to a virtually empty city where the 1st Marine Division's rumbling tanks and patrolling rifles are out in force making sure the guerrillas don't come back.

American officers say only about a tenth of the 250,000 residents have returned since fleeing the weeklong battle in November that drove out insurgents who had controlled the predominantly Sunni Muslim city.

Signs scrawled on some houses proclaim "Family leaves here" or

"Family in the home," their imperfect English alerting the Marines that families have moved back in.

Most buildings also have been marked by the Marines with map grid numbers and symbols denoting whether they have been searched.

Marines handed out military ration for weeks after the battle to help the few families in the city get by, but that stopped after the Jan. 30 national election. The heavily armed Marines do still hand out soccer balls and candy to children.

Checkpoints across Fallujah and around its edges control the flow of the city's people. Marines are using some damaged buildings abandoned by families.

There is little activity on the streets. Marines patrol constantly. The Marines pay particular attention to young men who seem not to want to be noticed, pulling them aside to make quick mugshots in case of future troubles.

Documentary to re-create alleged torture techniques used at Gitmo

BY THOMAS WAGNER
The Associated Press

LONDON — A British television station plans to show a documentary that re-creates some of the torture techniques allegedly used at the Guantanamo Bay prison camp by trying them out on volunteers.

"The Guantanamo Guidebook" show was made by the London-based production company 20-20, using declassified documents about the U.S. camp, Yad Luthra, a spokesman for Channel 4 in London, said Wednesday.

The producers of the show claim to have re-created some of the milder forms of torture used at the U.S. Navy base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The methods used on the seven volunteers in the one-hour docu-

mentary included religious and sexual humiliation, forced nudity, sleep deprivation and extreme temperatures, Luthra said in an interview.

The U.S. government has denied using torture at the camp in Cuba, where many detainees are held without charge.

But some Guantanamo detainees have alleged that they were wrongly imprisoned after repeated abuse by U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Pakistan, including beatings with chains, electric shock and sodomy.

Tom Wilner, a lawyer for 11 Kuwaiti prisoners there, recently told The Associated Press that most of his clients falsely confessed to belonging to Afghanistan's ousted Taliban regime or the al-Qaida terror network as a way to stop the abuse.

A broadcast date for "The Guantanamo Guidebook" has not been announced, but Luthra said it is one of four documentaries that Channel 4 plans to show in a one-week period in the next month dealing with the issue of torture.

The others include a documentary by Clive Stafford Smith, the first British lawyer allowed into Guantanamo, that explores the issue of whether torture ever works when used on alleged terrorism suspects.

Another film by former BBC journalist Andrew Gilligan is about how countries such as the United States allegedly take terrorist suspects to a country other than America or their homeland to torture them.

The fourth Channel 4 documentary is about alleged torture in U.S. penitentiaries.

Indiana Guardsman charged with Iraq murder

The Associated Press

EVANSVILLE, Indiana — An Indiana National Guardsman who received a Purple Heart for wounds sustained in Iraq has been charged in the death of an Iraqi citizen, the Army said.

The Iraqi died at the same time Cpl. Dustin Berg, 21, was wounded, the military said. Berg also faces charges of false swearing and the wearing of an unauthorized award.

A hearing was scheduled Thursday at Fort Knox, Ky., to determine whether the case will proceed to a court-martial.

The Iraqi died in November 2003 near Nippur, south of Baghdad, said Gini Sinclair, a Fort Knox public affairs officer, on Tuesday. She declined to release further details about the case.

Berg's mother was quoted in The Herald news-

paper of Jasper, Ind., on Nov. 24, 2003, as saying her son, of Ferdinand, Ind., had been shot the day before in the abdomen and had undergone minor surgery.

Rescued at her home Tuesday by The Associated Press, Mary Lee Berg would not comment, saying only that her son had returned to duty in Iraq after the shooting.

Berg received a Purple Heart during a ceremony Feb. 19, 2004, at Camp Atterbury, Ind. The Indiana National Guard on Tuesday would not release the citation describing why the Purple Heart was awarded.

Berg was a member of the 1st Battalion, 152nd Infantry Regiment, based in Jasper, Ind., when it mobilized in January 2003 for the Iraq war and returned home in February 2004. He has since been put on active duty and assigned to Fort Knox.

Troops welcome increased death benefits

By TERRY BOYD
Stars and Stripes

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WILSON, Iraq — American soldiers in Iraq say they welcome the proposals to nearly double some death benefits.

Increases are "long overdue" for survivors' benefits such as the death gratuity, "because \$12,000 barely covers the cost of a funeral," said 2nd Lt. Kenneth Rivard, 3rd Squadron, 27th Regimental Combat Team, from the Tennessee National Guard.

The Department of Defense is proposing to raise the death gratuity to \$100,000 from \$12,420 currently, and the maximum life insurance caps to \$400,000 under new members Group Life Insurance, or SGLI, from \$250,000. The DOD would pay for the first \$150,000 in life insurance for all troops in combat zones.

One point of debate separating defense officials from Congress and military leaders is who should be eligible.

Officials from all four services testified in Congress earlier this month that they

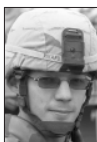
Many say only those in combat zones should be eligible for highest payout

would prefer to see death benefits extended to all active-duty personnel and reserve forces, not just those in war zones.

Death benefits are a hot button issue: "Rush Limbaugh talks a lot about how soldiers get a fraction of what a civilian would receive" in death benefits, said Rivard, 32, a married information technology employee in Nashville, Tenn., in civilian life.

The conservative talk-show host has criticized payouts to the families of firefighters and civilians killed in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, which averaged \$1 million, compared to the small amount paid to the survivors of soldiers, Marines, airmen and sailors killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

But in an informal poll of soldiers at FOB Wilson, just slightly more than half said they believe only those in combat zones should be eligible for the increased death payout.



Rivard

made available mainly to soldiers in combat zones, said Hammons, 44, from Jackson, Tenn. Only select personnel outside war zones, such as submariners and special operations troops "who undergo very, very hazardous training," should be included, Hammons said.

The proposed death benefit increases

are projected to cost about \$459 million the first year, then \$280 million in 2006, with retroactive payouts to the beneficiaries of soldiers killed on or after Oct. 7, 2001.

It remains to be seen how many soldiers would take advantage of the proposed increases.

Only about 9 percent of newly enlisted soldiers are married, according to Army data. However, that figure increases to 42 percent by the end of the first enlistment.

Rivard encourages his soldiers with dependents to buy the maximum coverage, which costs about \$16 a month for the current \$250,000 in coverage, he said. Yet only slightly more than half of the 3-27th RCT soldiers interviewed at FOB Wilson said they're paying for the maximum SGLI coverage.

One of those with maximum coverage is Cpl. Michael Henley, 28, who is single. Just because he has no children doesn't mean he doesn't have any obligations.

"If something happens to me, I'll put my goddaughter through college," Henley said.

E-mail Terry Boyd at: boyd@mail.strips.esd.mil

Army now issuing new camo uniforms

By RUSS BYNUM
The Associated Press

FORT STEWART, Ga. — Army soldiers are being issued new fatigues with easy-to-use Velcro openings and a redesigned camouflage pattern that can help conceal them as they move rapidly from desert to forest to city in places like Baghdad.

"It might give you the extra second you need, save your life maybe," Sgt. Marco Soares said Tuesday after trying on the new all-in-one camouflage uniform that is the first major redesign in Army fatigues since 1983.

Soares' unit, the Georgia National Guard's 48th Infantry Brigade, was the first to receive the new fatigues as part of a \$3.4 billion Army-wide makeover being phased in over the next three years.

The uniforms will replace the standard forest camouflage — green, brown and black — and the desert camouflage — tan, brown and grey — now used by U.S. troops in Iraq.

Twenty-two changes were made to the uniforms, most notably the new camouflage pattern.

Instead of bold jagged swatches of colors, the new camouflage pattern uses muted shades of desert brown, urban gray and foliage green broken into one-centimeter segments. Black was eliminated completely because it catches the eye too easily.

The resulting camouflage — similar to a pattern the Marines adopted two years ago — conceals soldiers in forest, desert or urban backgrounds, said Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Myhre, the uniform's lead designer.

First new combat fatigues in 22 years

The first major redesign in Army fatigues is being phased in over the next three years. The \$3.4 billion makeover will replace the standard forest and desert camouflage with a new pattern as well as many other comfort and tactical improvements.

New Army combat uniform



Source: Army Program Executive Office

"In Baghdad, you can go from the desert to vegetation to the city in 10 minutes," Myhre said.

Other changes were prompted by complaints from soldiers in the field. Jacket and pocket buttons, which can snag on nets and other gear, have been replaced with zippers and Velcro.

Pockets at the jacket's waistline were moved to the shoulders, where soldiers can reach them while wearing body armor. And the uniforms have a looser fit, with more room to wear layers underneath.

Rank, unit and name patches attach with Velcro rather than being sewn on. Infrared-reflect-

ing squares on the shoulders make friendly troops easier to identify while using night-vision goggles.

"The only problem I have with the uniform is, once the soldiers put it on, they don't want to take it off," said Brig. Gen. Stewart Rodheaver, commander of the 48th Infantry Brigade, which has 4,000 reservists training at Fort Stewart to go off to Iraq in May.

Col. John Norwood, the Army's project manager for soldier equipment, said the new uniforms will be issued in coming months to units being sent to Iraq. New soldiers entering basic training will be issued them by October, and all Army troops will be required to wear them by April 2008.

Pain, loss linger after Iraqi informant killed

The Associated Press

IRBIL, Iraq — Shihab Khaled Anwar cannot bear to think of his father, beheaded in Iraq for allegedly being an informant for Americans.

"If I think of him, I picture his head and I won't be able to sleep," the 10-year-old boy said. The severed head was dumped on the pavement near his home in the northern city of Mosul a day after his father, Khaled Ibrahim, 29, was abducted by gunmen on his way to buy bread.

Shihab, too young to grasp the motives behind such brutality, refers to his father's killers as "burglars." The adults in the family have a different theory: he was tipping off the Americans about terrorists.

Now the family feels abandoned by America, for whom Ibrahim sacrificed his life. The U.S. military in Iraq never comments on its network of informants, past or present. But the beheading of Ibrahim indicates his death was the work of Iraqi insurgents, who have made decapitation the gruesome signature of their campaign against foreigners and Iraqi collaborators, often filming the act and distributing it on Web sites.

According to his wife, Ibrahim

started off as a friend to Americans. They would visit the couple's home, and the Ibrahim's would offer them food and drink. At some point the Americans, whom Mrs. Ibrahim did not identify, asked him to work for them.

Ibrahim was certainly qualified to help the Americans. He knew Kurds were persecuted under Saddam Hussein and supported the 2003 U.S. invasion that toppled his regime.

From that point on, Ibrahim had regular contacts with Americans, said his wife, an Arab.

"Every week or two he went to see the Americans," she said.

"He identified people who put explosives, the terrorists. He liked the Americans. He was against the situation."

She said the night before his death Ibrahim told her he sensed he was being watched. It was no surprise — he had received many threats from Islamic extremists for collaborating with the Americans.

Ibrahim's wife was pregnant at the time of his death. On Dec. 28, she gave birth to a fifth son.

"The Americans should help us. He died because of them," said Khaled's widow. "I want my children to have normal lives when they grow up."

1st ID transferring authority in Iraq to 42nd ID

The 1st Infantry Division has announced plans to transfer authority over its sector of Iraq next week to the 42nd Infantry Division.

Maj. Gen. John Batiste will turn over command of his Tikrit-based headquarters to Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto in a ceremony 1 p.m. Monday. The name of the command will change from Task Force Dancer to Task Force Liberty.

The 42nd ID is part of the New York Army National Guard and is the first National Guard division activated for overseas service since the Korean War.

Two veteran brigade combat teams from the 3rd Infantry Division, a regular Army unit based in Fort Stewart, Ga., and many National Guard and reserve units, will bolster the Rainbow Division's headquarters staff.

From staff reports

41st Transportation Company heading back to Iraq

Vilseck soldiers send signature vehicles on their way to Kuwait

BY BEN MURRAY
Stars and Stripes

VILSECK, Germany — In a sign that the 41st Transportation Company (Palletized Load System) is fast approaching its second year deployment downrange, members of the unit sent the company's signature vehicles on the first leg of their journey to Iraq on Wednesday at the Vilseck military railhead.

Though the approximately 140 soldiers of the 41st won't leave Germany for several more weeks, the unit needed to get its 10-wheeled cargo trucks on the way so it can pick them up in Kuwait in March.

Once in the region, the unit will spend another year shuttling supplies around Iraq in a mission troops said they are more prepared to execute safely the second time around.

"We had to improve our driving technique" after the first time out, said Sgt. J.P. Cardona, a PLS driver.

The convoy drivers were forced to come up with methods on the fly to avoid hazards posed by Iraqi insurgents in the last deployment, learning on the job how to maneuver a successful convoy, he said.

"This time around, we've got a hard play book," Cardona said.

Before returning from its first deployment a year ago in March 2004, the 41st drove nearly a million miles to bases all around Iraq, hauling everything from live ammunition to soccer balls for Iraqi children, said the company's rear detachment commander, 1st Sgt. Stacy Pennington.

While on the road, the convoys were attacked a number of times with makeshift bombs — which the military calls improvised explosive devices, Cardona said.

The unit did not suffer any battle injuries or deaths on the initial deployment.

"We had to change out a couple of tires," he said, adding, "That's close enough for me."

This time out, the soldiers are much better versed in identifying potential IEDs, said Lt. Col. Bruce Fiert from the 18th Corps Support Battalion, a parent unit of the 41st.

Since coming back, the unit has also "focused a lot of our training toward convoy survivability, soldier survivability," and the situation on the ground in Iraq is much more "steady-state" than in the last deployment. That allows the



PHOTOS BY BEN MURRAY/Stars and Stripes

Above: Workers at the Vilseck military railhead position the back chassis of a Palletized Load System truck on a rail car Wednesday as the specialized vehicles of the 41st Transportation Company were sent on the first leg of their journey to Iraq. The 41st soldiers will be reunited with their vehicles in Kuwait in March. **Below:** One of the trucks drops off some supplies to be sent with a trainload of the vehicles. The specialized cargo trucks can load and unload on their own containers in less than a minute.

41st to make shorter cargo runs on an improved hub-and-spoke supply system, he said.

In 2003 and early 2004, the 41st was driving up to 700 miles at a stretch to deliver supplies in their PLS trucks, he said. The slow, bulky vehicles can lift containers onto their own beds without the aid of a forklift or crane, and can also transport pallets of supplies.

The cabs of the trucks do have armor, said a spokesman for 3rd Corps Support Command, the logistics support unit for the 41st, but they will be re-evaluated when they reach Kuwait to see if it meets new Army standards before they are sent into Iraq.

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With GIs headed home, 1st ID moms 'adopt' Marines

BY STEVE LIEWER
Stars and Stripes

Some moms of 1st Infantry Division soldiers have adopted some new kids.

With their sons and daughters due home from Iraq any day now, the e-mail support group of about 70 Big Red One mothers who call themselves the "Family of One" wanted to keep supporting troops in the Middle East. They had formed last year through a 1st ID Web site and boosted not only each other, but their soldiers through a hard one-year tour in Iraq.

Enter the Marines.

On Jan. 17, Barbara Holman and Donna Cranston, two 1st ID mothers who volunteer frequently at the United Service Organizations lounge in Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, were greeting troops there headed to and returning from Iraq.

A group of 120 Iraq-bound Marines from the Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 4, an EA-6 Prowler squadron from the 2nd Marine Air Wing in Cherry Point, N.C., got stuck overnight when their plane didn't arrive.

Holman and Cranston felt badly that the Marines were con-



Holman

fine to their hotel for the evening, their last night in the United States before a seven-month tour. So they bought enough beer for each Marine to drink one in his hotel room, then got up the next morning to give them gifts and a goodbye hug before their early departure the next morning.

"I was flabbergasted with the

outpouring of support," said Sgt. Maj. Terry Kraker, the squadron's senior enlisted Marine, via e-mail from their duty post at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq.

"I have been in the Marine Corps for over 27 years and have been to a lot of places. I have never received this kind of support on my way out the door."

The women gave Kraker a Big Red One patch to keep on his desk. And they agreed to "adopt" the squadron, with one family sending care packages and notes of encouragement to each of its 60 single Marines.

Holman said it took little time

to find families to adopt the Marines from among the Family of One e-mail group, her friends and co-workers in Texas.

"The spirit is contagious," Holman said in an e-mail to Stars and Stripes. "Our Family of One is proud to 'defect' from supporting our returning 1st ID and move on to the Marines."

"These Americans are one of the reasons we are going to Iraq," Kraker said. "Our motto is 'Semper Fidelis,' meaning 'Always faithful,' and we will do just that. We are now a part of the Family of One."

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Pentagon Channel on DISH Network

EchoStar Communications Corporation and its DISH Network satellite television service are now offering the Pentagon Channel, the Defense Department's news and information network for and about the military.

The Pentagon Channel, launched in 2004, will be provided to customers at no additional cost, but a second satellite dish may be required.

DISH Network customers will see Department of Defense news with hourly updates, broadcasts of each service's flagship news magazine programs and Department of Defense news briefings from the Pentagon and around the world.

In addition to programming for the 1.4 million ac-

tive-duty servicemembers, the Pentagon Channel will provide the 1.2 million Guardians and reservists and 650,000 civilian DOD employees more timely access to military information and news.

The DISH network is accessible from anywhere in the United States.

Outages during AFN upgrades

American Forces Network viewers will see a "momentary loss of service" as AFN upgrades its encoder hardware and software at the AFN Broadcast Center during the week of Feb. 21, the network announced Tuesday.

The outages will last for "a couple of seconds," said Jerry Shorter, chief of broadcast engineering at the cen-

ter. Shorter also said that they will try to take advantage of the time differences with the audience and schedule any work when "it'll have the least impact with the fewest people watching."

Scientific Atlanta will first upgrade the PowerVu encoder hardware that serves the Pacific region. A day or two later, it will upgrade the system that serves the Atlantic region.

Audiences overseas will lose the AFN signal as the company switches to the upgraded system on each AFN channel.

This scheduled maintenance is not related to the recent satellite outage experienced by AFN customers in the Far East.

From staff reports

Official: U.S., China discuss hot line

Communication sought during incidents

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Nearly four years after a U.S. Navy spy plane was intercepted off China, the two nations are working on an agreement that would use a hot line between their defense departments, and clarify a "rules of the road" when aircraft or ships encounter each other.

If successful, the two-pronged effort would allow direct communication between the respective tops and the two chains of command and, U.S. officials hope, diffuse future flashpoints.

Richard Lawless, the Pentagon chief of Asian affairs, led a team that met with Chinese brass in Beijing last week to discuss the proposals, according to a senior defense official, who spoke only on condition of anonymity.

U.S. leaders have raised the two ideas repeatedly in recent years, to no avail.

"We've been attempting to break the impasse," said the official. A spokesman for the Chinese embassy in Washington declined to comment on the negotiations.

"If an agreement like this had been in place, then at least there would have been an avenue to talk [during and after the spy plane incident], but that avenue doesn't exist, even to this day," said Pentagon spokesman Navy Lt. Cmdr. Greg Hicks.

"We'll never know what the end result might have been, but it certainly would have been nice to have some sort of protocol in place for the two pilots to talk to each other," said Hicks. "After the fact, had a hot line existed, it 'would have made a huge difference' in getting the crew and aircraft released."

The U.S. visit follows a trip to China by Joint Chiefs chairman Gen. Richard Myers a year ago and Pacific Command's chief Adm. Thomas Fargo's visit in July as relations between the two militaries have thawed since the EP-3 was forced down in April 2001.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld may soon add the weight of his office as well. Rumsfeld "has agreed in principle" to a trip to China sometime this year, said the official [see story at right].

Lost in translation

The United States and China signed the Military Maritime Consultation Agreement in 1998, designed to provide clear instructions to pilots and warship captains when they meet their counterparts in international airspace and waters.

The details that were to follow — how to exchange calls signs and frequencies, even the use of hand and arm signals — never materialized.

The Chinese, said the official, have insisted on first agreeing to what constitutes international waters and airspace. The Chinese claim 200 miles off their coastlines, while international norms limit territorial claims to 12 miles.

"That's a huge issue for them. I'd be really surprised, bordering on stunned, if they were willing to separate that from the discussions," said Ted Carpenter, vice president for defense and foreign policy studies at the Cato Institute, a Washington-based think tank.

It was that disagreement that led to the Chinese fighter pilot forcing the Navy's surveillance crew down in April 2001, following a series of confrontations between U.S. spy planes and the Chinese Air Force. Three tension-filled days passed before they were released.

Now, said the defense official, "the Chinese are holding the MMCA semi-hostage" over the dispute.

The idea of a hot line from the Pentagon to the Chinese ministry of defense may be closer to reality. Instead of rebuffing the proposal during this latest visit, the Chinese now say they are "studying seriously" the concept, said the official.

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Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

An advanced EP-3E Aries II is shown in this Navy file photo flying near Japan's Mount Fuji. An EP-3 was forced to land in China in April 2003, resulting in three tense-filled days of negotiations between the United States and China.

Rumsfeld states interest in visit to Beijing in 2005

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has agreed in principle to pay an official visit to China, a significant step toward revitalizing a military-to-military dialogue forced into hiatus after a Navy surveillance plane and a Chinese fighter collided in international airspace in 2001.

"Secretary Rumsfeld is interested in visiting China this year," a senior Defense Department official said Tuesday. No final commitment had been made and no date had been set for a visit.

He said the most recent military and defense policy white paper released by the government in Beijing described in troubling ways the American military presence in the Pacific and characterized the security situation regarding Taiwan.

The American presence in the region "complicated security factors," The New York Times reported the Chinese military document as stating. And the situation in the waterway dividing Taiwan from the Chinese mainland is "grim," it added.

During recent talks, Pentagon officials pressed their Chinese counterparts to explain those choices of words which the Defense Department official described as "an escalation in the level of rhetoric."

The Chinese military's buildup across from Taiwan is "a substantial increase in capability" and "is an issue of concern to us," the official said.

In recent bilateral discussions, the question of expanding reciprocal visits has come up, with the American delegation pressing for improving the quality "of what we get to see and do," the official said.

Investors sue over deals with troops

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A group of California attorneys has filed a class-action lawsuit against First Command Financial Planning that could result in payouts to military investors not included in last year's federal settlement.

The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court of Southern California, asks for compensation for members of First Command's systematic investment plan, saying the company used "false and misleading marketing" in its dealings with troops.

First Command officials dismissed those accusations.

"First Command Financial Planning is proud of its years of service to hundreds of thousands of military families," said Paul Cozby, a company spokesman. "We believe the complaint filed in San Diego contains numerous factual inaccuracies and erroneous conclusions, and we intend to vigorously defend the matter."

In December, federal regulators announced First Command would refund about \$4 million to customers who bought and sold the systematic investment plans between 1999 and 2004.

That settlement came after an investigation found the company's salespeople had misled military personnel about costs and returns associated with the plan. Company officials did not admit to or deny the charges, but have since stopped offering those funds.

Anyone who bought a systematic investment plan before Dec. 15 and did not sell the plan before that date could be eligible to join the class-action suit, according to Norman Blumenthal, one of eight attorneys already signed on to the suit.

Blumenthal said the goal is to help customers not included in the federal settlement, but also "punished" by First Command's sales practices.

"You shouldn't put military personnel in a position where you're taking that much money away in fees," he said. "We think it's a bad plan."

The systematic investment plans took as much as 50 percent of investors' first-year savings in broker fees and, the lawsuit states, higher-than-needed fees after that. Suitspeople for the firm also are accused of lying about the likelihood of recouping that money, and misleading customers about better investment plans.

Blumenthal said First Command customers do not need to sign up to become part of the class — if a settlement or verdict award is reached, all those eligible will be able to recover money — but he is encouraging military personnel he speaks with to talk with a financial adviser about their investments.

"We're telling people there is no reason to stay in this plan," he said.

A lead plaintiff for the case is expected to be named by May 1, at which point the courtroom process will begin.

In addition to the \$4 million in refunds it was ordered to pay in the December federal settlement, First Command agreed to pay \$8 million to be used to set up an investment education program for military personnel.

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Fast 'Sea Fighter' alters the look of U.S. Navy

BY SANDI DOUGHTON

The Seattle Times

SEATTLE — The future of the Navy is sitting in a Whidbey Island shipyard, and Lt. Cmdr. Brandon Bryan can't wait to take her for a spin.

"It's the Navy's hottest sports car," said the Seattle native, gazing at the burnished aluminum catamaran that will be his next command.

Dubbed "Sea Fighter," the 262-foot ship will be the fastest vessel in the fleet, except for a few small patrol boats. The conservative estimate is that its 66,000-horsepower engines will push it to 50 knots, or about 57 mph, but Bryan says top speed will probably be closer to 60 knots, or nearly 70 mph.

Looking like something out of an early James Bond movie, the Sea Fighter is a souped-up version of a high-speed passenger catamaran, said Matt Nichols, president of Nichols Brothers Boat Builders, winners of the \$46 million construction contract.

The design marks a revolutionary change for the Navy, which since World War II has been dominated by huge aircraft carriers, destroyers and cruisers.

Sea Fighter, which was christened last



SEATTLE TIMES/WT

Lt. Cmdr. Brandon Bryan, left, and Cmdr. Mark Thomas stand by the 262-foot Sea Fighter catamaran last week at Nichols Brothers Boat Builders in Freeport, Wash.

week, was designed to test the technology needed for a new class of ships that will be lighter, faster and more suited to today's military and maritime realities.

The Sea Fighter is able to enter waters as shallow as 11 feet. The ship is so maneuver-

able it can turn on a dime at low speeds, said Steve Nordtvedt, program manager for San Diego-based Titan, the prime contractor.

That flexibility will be a keystone of the new Navy, said Robert Work, a retired Marine colonel and navy analyst.

Army pushes new payment schedule

BY LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Army officials hope that more predictable deployment schedules for active duty soldiers, reservists and guardsmen will lead to a better-trained force with quicker response times.

Under a plan unveiled on Congress on Wednesday, active duty soldiers could expect two years at their home base after a year of deployment. Reservists would see five years of "dwell time" after each year in active duty service, and Guardsmen would have four to five years at home between deployments.

Army Secretary Francis Harvey said that plan likely won't go into effect until at least 2007, when other major training and force adaptations are complete. Officials want to shift the service to a brigade combat team focus over the next two years, growing from 33 brigades to 44.

But Harvey said more predictable de-

Plan calls for 1 year on, 2 years at home for active duty, 4-5 years at home for reserves

ployment schedules will create a better quality of life for soldiers by reducing stress on their families, which in turn will result in a more focused fighting force.

Of the 150,000 U.S. troops in Iraq, between 40 percent and 50 percent are from the Guard and Reserve. The figure is set to drop to 30 percent for the next rotation, beginning this summer, because many combat-ready Guard units are tapped out.

Last year, Congress mandated a temporary increase of 30,000 soldiers to address those personnel concerns.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker said that about 20,000 of those new soldiers have been recruited, and officials will hire 2,000 new recruits in the coming year to reach the 30,000 goal and keep the personnel numbers steady.

"You can cut down 300,000 trees in no time, but it takes longer to grow 30,000 back," he said, noting that the Army dropped its active duty numbers by hundreds of thousands of soldiers after the first Gulf War.

Members of the House Armed Services Committee praised the overall force upgrades, but House Democrats criticized Army officials for what they called a short-sighted 2006 budget proposal that could leave the war on terror undermanned and the postwar Army poorly equipped.

"Frankly, looking at this budget, it occurs to me that we could use this war effort as an excuse for it if we're not careful," said Rep. Ike Skelton, Miss., ranking Democrat of the House Armed Services Committee.

He warned that, unless permanent funding sources are found for new soldiers and equipment repairs, the Army could go back to "the hollow Army of the late 1970s and early 1980s ... when soldiers could not train because their equipment was so poor and spare parts were scarce."

The service's 2006 budget proposal, a \$98.6 billion plan that sets goals for training and upgrading the brigade system but does not include costs associated with combat in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Army Secretary Francis Harvey acknowledged that he will be paid for with a supplemental budget request, to be unveiled later this month. The supplemental will also be used to pay for the 30,000 new soldiers.

Harvey estimated that supplemental budgets will be needed to pay for equipment maintenance and other war-related expenses for at least two years after the Army withdrawals from the Middle East.

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Senators begin efforts to save military planes cut in budget

BY STEPHEN J. HEDGES
Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON — Less than 24 hours after the Bush administration announced its plans to save billions of dollars by scaling back two new Air Force planes, a group of senators on Tuesday launched a campaign to restore those cuts.

Chief among them was Sen. Johnny Isakson, a Republican from Georgia, where 8,500 workers assemble both planes — the F/A-22 fighter jet and the C-130J Hercules transport — at the Lockheed Martin plant in Marietta. Attending a Pentagon breakfast with Defense Secretary Rumsfeld, Isakson said the secretary promised that indeed he was already reconsidering the C-130J cut.

"Rumsfeld said that he and the department are re-evaluating the C-130J proposal, and maybe some things had been overlooked," Isakson said. "It was a very positive sign ..."

With the release earlier this week of President Bush's proposed 2006 budget calling for hundreds of program cuts, those with vested interests in how the federal government spends its money have wasted no time in starting to lobby the decision-makers — members of Congress and key administration leaders — to save those ventures they care about.

As part of that initial effort, some senators went to the Pentagon on Tuesday for a previously scheduled breakfast with Rumsfeld and questioned the wisdom of reducing the number of F/A-22 Raptor fighter jets that would be produced, and canceling the new C-130J Hercules transport altogether. This effort has been indicative of many of the battles expected to be waged over Bush's proposed budget.

Rumsfeld spokesman Bryan Whitman said he was not at the breakfast and could not confirm the discussion about the C-130J. But Whitman said, "The department is studying a mobility capability study that will update our overall mobility requirements."

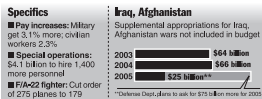
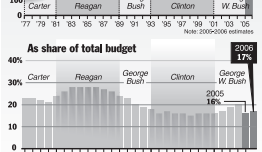
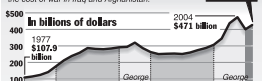
However one interprets the breakfast, it was no surprise that members of Congress stepped up quickly to take issue with the administration's proposed \$419.3 billion defense budget. Nor was it a surprise that the Raptor and the Hercules, two projects whose development costs have skyrocketed, would be on the administration's chopping block.

"The F-22 should stay away," said Sen. Wendell Ford, a former Senate Budget Committee staff member and author of "The Wastrels of Defense," a book that examines Congress' role in authorizing multibillion-dollar military programs. "It should have been canceled long ago. Rumsfeld, for all his talk, and all of his bravado, has been a pussy-cat on dealing with these programs."

While some federal agencies face budget cuts in

More money for defense

President Bush's budget proposal calls for a 4.8 percent increase in spending, not including the cost of war in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Source: U.S. Office of Management and Budget. *Defense Dept. plans to ask for \$75 billion more by 2007.

2006, the Pentagon budget is projected to grow by about \$19 billion over this fiscal year. It includes increases of \$9.7 billion for the Air Force.

But the service faces two painful reductions, if Congress goes along with Bush's proposal.

One would authorize the purchase of 179 of its new Raptors, a plane that has been in years in the making and that only recently was put into production. That would be 96 fewer planes than the service was expecting.

At one time, the Air Force planned on a fleet of 750. So far, 45 Raptors have been delivered, according to Lockheed Martin, the primary manufacturer.

The second cut would end the production of the C-130J next year. To date, 121 planes have been delivered and 59 more are on order, according to Lockheed Martin, which also makes that plane.

Both planes have become more expensive over the years.

Critics now like to point out that the Pentagon is concurrently developing the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, raising doubts about the need for two new fighter aircraft.

AER fund-raising campaign to begin in March

The annual Army Emergency Relief fund-raising campaign will run from March 1 to May 15, according to the Installation Management Agency-Europe.

AER is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to "helping the Army take care of its own," and has been the Army's emergency financial assistance organization since 1942.

AER funds are made available to commanders to provide financial help for soldiers with valid emergency needs. Soldiers in need can contact their Army Community Service office or local chapter of the American Red Cross.

Soldiers — active-duty and retired — who wish to contribute may do so through a monthly allotment from their pay or with a check or cash donation to campaign coordinators in their units. Contributors will get receipts for their donations, which are tax deductible.

Last year, more than 40,000 troops and their families received more than \$35 million in assistance.

For more information, go to www.aerhq.org.

Employer Support Freedom award nominations

National Guard members and reservists are being asked to nominate deserving employers for the 2005 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. Nominations can be made through Feb. 24.

The award, established in 1996, recognizes employers who support and make sacrifices to enable their employees to serve as Guardsmen and reservists. Fifteen employers were given the 2004 award.

Nominations can be made through the Web site of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, an agency of the Department of Defense, at www.esgr.mil.

Schoomaker appoints general for new position

ARLINGTON, Va. — Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker has selected Brig. Gen. David M. Rodriguez to be the first leader of a brand-new position: commander, Multi-National Division Northwest — Iraq.

Army Gen. George Casey, who has the top job commanding the overall Multinational Forces — Iraq, recently created the two-star billet. Rodriguez, who is now in line for a second star, will take his post around April 1, an Army official told Stripes on Tuesday.

Rodriguez is currently the Joint Staff's Deputy Director for Regional Operations. He became a familiar face to military watchers after participating in several Pentagon briefings about Iraq in 2004.

Meanwhile, Brig. Gen. Carter Ham, who as deputy commanding general for training and readiness at I Corps and Fort Lewis, Wash., is also the commander of the Multi-National Brigade North in Iraq, will come to Washington to take Rodriguez' Joint Staff job, Army officials said.

Ft. Bragg soldier, teen girl found dead in home

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — A Fort Bragg soldier and a 16-year-old girl were found dead Tuesday in his home, the second shooting in a week involving soldiers at the base.

The victims said Pvt. George Daniel Katsigianis, 21, and Jenna Bolgna, both natives of New York City, could have died as early as Friday. The girl had been staying with Katsigianis.

Maj. Sam Pennica of the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office said investigators are looking at suspects but have no motive for the killings.

From staff and wire reports

IN THE STATES

1 deputy killed, 2 wounded in shooting at Florida home

The Associated Press

LAKE KATHRYN, Fla. — A sheriff's deputy was fatally shot and two others were wounded when a domestic battery suspect opened fire on them Wednesday as they responded to a home in the Ocala National Forest, officials said.

Lake County Deputy Wayne Koester died after being transferred to a hospital, sheriff's Capt. Nick Pallitto told the Orlando Sentinel and local TV stations. Deputies Tom McKane and Bill Crotty were each shot in the leg and are

undergoing treatment at an area hospital.

The suspect, Jason Lee Wheeler, 29, escaped on a motorcycle, which was later found ditched, Pallitto said. His girlfriend told deputies that Wheeler has an arsenal of weapons and that his property might be booby-trapped.

More than 100 deputies and officers from four different law enforcement agencies searched for Wheeler just minutes after the shooting was reported. Wheeler was considered armed and dangerous.

"It's an intensive manhunt and

we're going to get this guy," Pallitto said.

"He's going to be OK," Orange County spokesman Steve Triggs told the Orlando Sentinel about Crotty.

Two nearby elementary schools were on lockdown as deputies searched for a suspect, school district spokesman Janice Karst said.

Florida Highway Patrol troopers temporarily shut down portions of state roads 42 and 44 during the search.

"We need people to stay in their houses while they search for this guy," Trooper Kim Miller said.



Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley, with his wife Katie, on Wednesday denounced rumors of infidelity spread by an aid of Gov. Robert Ehrlich. O'Malley also is drawing fire for statements perceived to be comparing President Bush's budget cuts to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Va. House OKs hip-huggers crackdown

The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Virginians who wear their pants so low their underwear shows may want to think about investing in a stronger belt.

The state's House of Delegates passed a bill Tuesday authorizing a \$50 fine for anyone who displays his or her underpants in a "lewd or indecent manner."

Del. Lionell Spruill Sr., a Democrat who opposed the bill, had pleaded with his colleagues to remember their own youthful fashion follies.

During an extended monologue Monday, he talked about how they dressed or wore their hair in

their teens. On Tuesday, he said the measure was an unconstitutional attack on young blacks that would force parents to take off work to accompany their children to court just for making a fashion statement.

"This is a foolish bill, Mr. Speaker, because it will hurt so many," Spruill said before the measure was approved 60-34. It now goes to the state Senate.

The bill's sponsor, Del. Algie T. Howell, said constituents were offended by the exposed underwear. He did not speak on the floor Tuesday.

Spruill and Howell, also a Democrat, are both black.

Bush cautious despite latest cease-fire pledge in Mideast

BY BARRY SCHWEID

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Even with a cease-fire pledge from Israeli and Palestinian leaders, President Bush is moving slowly to involve himself and U.S. prestige in the always risky, often disappointing Mideast peace process.

The fizzling of 10 announced cease-fires over the past four years is a sobering lesson for an already deliberate administration. Bush has refused to take short cuts, and he accepts the principle that the parties — not outsiders — bear ultimate responsibility for their fate.

In one respect, though, Bush already has turned a corner in agreeing to his first meeting with

Analysis

a Palestinian leader. He will confer separately this spring with Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Bush shunned the late Yasser Arafat but has agreed to work with Arafat's successor. His cautious engagement and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's promise to play an active role in promoting a settlement bring the administration deeper into mediating the conflict than it has been in a year and a half.

"This is a time of opportunity," Rice said Tuesday at a news conference in Rome. But she bal-

anced that positive note with an admonition: "There's a long road ahead of the Israelis and Palestinians."

The administration plans to send a security adviser to the region, choosing Army Lt. Gen. William E. Ward, who will be in close contact with Rice. Bush also is seeking \$350 million in aid for the Palestinians.

But Bush does not appear inclined to move that fast, or that boldly, and several Middle East analysts agreed with his measured approach.

Edward S. Walker, a former U.S. ambassador to Egypt and to Israel, said "the U.S. role is to help the sides talk to each other" and "not get into the middle of their negotiations."

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Mayor Martin O'Malley likened the cuts in President Bush's budget proposal for urban areas to the Sept. 11 attacks, drawing fire from his fellow Democrats as well as Republicans.

Also, at a news conference Wednesday, O'Malley denounced rumors of infidelity spread on the Internet by a longtime aide to Gov. Robert Ehrlich, saying he was the target of an "orchestrated campaign," as his wife described the effect that the stories were having on their young children.

The mayor, who is weighing a bid for governor in 2006 and is considered a rising star within the Democratic Party, was among a group of mayors and other local officials who held a news conference Tuesday in Washington to criticize the president's proposal to cut spending for community development programs by \$2 billion.

"Back on September 11, terrorists attacked our metropolitan cores, two of America's great cities. They did that because they knew that was where they could do the most damage and weaken us the most," O'Malley said. "Years later, we are given a budget proposal by our commander in chief, the president of the Unit-

ed States. And with a budget ax, he is attacking America's cities. He is attacking our metropolitan core."

Montgomery County, Md., Executive Douglas M. Duncan said O'Malley "went way too far."

"The president of the United States is fighting terrorism. It hurts our cause when people say things like that," said Duncan, who like O'Malley is expected to seek the Democratic nomination in the 2006 race against Ehrlich.

Washington Mayor Anthony A. Williams, also a Democrat and president of the National League of Cities, said he disagreed with "the harsh language that was used."

O'Malley told The Washington Post he didn't intend to equate the proposed budget cuts to a terrorist attack.

"The point I am trying to make is, for America to be strong, we have to strengthen our cities. Because we're in the middle of a war, we need to be strengthening and protecting our cities, not weakening our cities," he said.

O'Malley has been tapped by party leaders on several occasions to speak out on behalf of cities. He was a keynote speaker at the Democratic convention in Boston last year and was an early and open critic of the Bush administration's assistance to cities for homeland security.

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Teen girl scalped

BOISE, Idaho — A member of a punk clique surrendered Wednesday for scalping another member, apparently as punishment for her disrespectful behavior toward women, police said. The victim, a 16-year-old girl whose hair was cut in a mohawk, survived.

Marianne Dahle, 26, surrendered on a felony arrest warrant for aggravated assault. Dahle is accused of tying up the teenager and cutting away a 6-by-8-inch section of her scalp.

The victim — who identified herself to reporters only as Sheila — said she underwent skin grafts and anticipated another surgery to repair the damage. Authorities did not release the girl's name.

Train strikes, kills 2

BOSTON — A commuter train struck and killed two Boston University students in the city's Allston section early Wednesday morning.

The two were dead at the scene after they were hit by an inbound train from Worcester around 1 a.m., said Lydia Rivera, a spokeswoman for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority.

MBTA police investigators were unsure why the two were on the tracks, Rivera said.

Eric Rudolph case

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — A whistleblower who once sparked a major review of the FBI crime lab is helping serial bombing suspect Eric Rudolph fight death penalty charges by challenging the work of another federal agency, according to court documents filed Tuesday. Once the FBI's top expert on forensic residue, Fredrick W. Whithurst has supplied the Rudolph defense with a sworn statement questioning the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms' model of the nail-laden bomb that exploded outside a Birmingham abortion clinic in 1998.

Jury selection is set to begin late next month in Rudolph's trial on charges of planting the bomb that went off outside the Birmingham clinic, killing an off-duty police officer and critically injuring a nurse.

Speaker dispute

BOULDER, Colorado — An embattled university professor who likened some of the Sept. 11 victims to the Nazi organizer of the Holocaust got a standing ovation when he took to the campus audience of more than 1,000 people that "I'm not backing up an inch."

John W. Churchill went ahead with the speech after the University of Colorado backed off an attempt to cancel the address, citing security reasons. Churchill had filed a lawsuit against the cancellation.

Churchill's comments, which appeared in an essay he wrote soon after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, prompted a firestorm of criticism when they became widely known last month, prompting him to resign as chairman of Colorado University's ethnic studies department.

From The Associated Press

Medicare drug benefit costs to rise

BY MARK SHERMAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Medicare's new prescription drug program will cost taxpayers \$720 billion over its first 10 years, with costs reaching \$100 billion a year by the middle of the next decade, according to a new estimate by the Bush administration.

The new number is far higher than any previous estimate produced by the administration or Congress, but it reflects what lawmakers and health care analysts have known all along: As baby boomers turn 65 and swell Medicare's rolls, the government's tab for their health care is expected to rise substantially.

The new projection issued Tuesday runs from 2006 to 2015 and is not directly comparable to the

Prescription drug program will cost \$720 billion over 10 years

\$400 billion estimate lawmakers had when they narrowly approved Medicare legislation in 2003 or to the revised estimate of \$534 billion that the White House issued just two months later, after the law was enacted.

Those figures covered the 10 years from 2004 to 2013 — two years to devise the drug benefit and put it in place and eight years in which the government would pay some drug costs for Medicare beneficiaries.

The drug benefit begins in January and the \$720 billion includes the years 2014 and 2015, Medicare spokesman Gary Karr said.

"Of course the costs go up

when you add in more years at the end and more people are on Medicare," Karr said.

Drug costs, which have been rising far faster than inflation, also are expected to be higher in those years.

Based on the numbers released Tuesday, the program's costs are estimated at roughly \$100 billion annually in 2014 and 2015, or more than a third of what the Medicare bill originally was projected to cost for the entire first 10 years, ending in 2013.

Under the new program, participants will pay monthly premiums that are expected to average \$35 in 2006 and the first \$250 in

drug costs. Medicare will pick up 75 percent of the next \$2,000 in prescription expenses. After that, a gap is built into coverage during which participants are responsible for the entire drug bill until costs top \$5,100, after which the government pays 95 percent.

Controversy over cost has plagued the program since before its passage. The administration's Medicare chief pressured a subordinate to withhold his higher estimate of the cost of the legislation from Congress, a report by the Health and Human Services Department inspector general concluded.

The bill narrowly passed the House, 220-215, after an extraordinary three-hour, middle-of-the-night vote in which GOP leaders and administration officials cajoled reluctant Republicans to support President Bush's key domestic priority.

FLIGHT 93 NATIONAL MEMORIAL

PHOTOGRAPH BY AP/WIDEWORLD



This artist rendering provided by the National Park Service on Friday shows "The Crescent of Embrace" by Paul Murdoch Architects of Los Angeles, one of five design finalists for the Flight 93 National Memorial. More than 1,000 designs were submitted for a memorial for the flight which crashed in a western Pennsylvania, killing 40 passengers and crew on Sept. 11, 2001.

Flight 93 memorial process begins

BY PATRICIA LOWRY

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The journey from Pittsburgh to the United Flight 93 crash site in Somerset County is a process of elimination. We pass from urban to suburban to rural farm to remote field.

Travel on, up over the ridge and into a wide, open, bowl-like field partially fringed by a small forest of trees. There, on the right, is a parking lot and just beyond it, the temporary memorial, 40 feet of chain-link fence to which visitors have attached flags, FDNY and local rescue workers' baseball caps with patches of permanent memorials, schedules and photographs of victims.

"People come," said Donna Zwick, who lives on a nearby farm and is one of 40 "ambassadors" who staff the temporary memorial near Shanksville, Pa. Even in the biting winds of winter, "they just keep coming."

In three years, more than 500,000 people have visited the Flight 93 crash site and left 20,000 objects, most of them now in archival storage. They will become part of the permanent memorial, scheduled to break ground later this year. Five finalists in the design competition were recently selected.

The plane's impact area was small and compact, but the memorial will be large, 2,200 acres owned and operated by the National Park Service, complete with park rangers and parking for 200 vehicles. There will be a visitor information center, archival storage and maintenance buildings, roads, trails, utilities.

The name came down on private land, in a field being reclaimed after deep and surface mining. The creation of a national park promises permanent access as well as the funds to produce and maintain a

quality memorial and continue the land reclamation, perhaps as a distinctive earthwork.

Absent the temporary memorial, there is no evidence that anything significant happened there. Because the crash site is also a gravesite, the crater made from the impact has been filled in, so the record of what happened has to be put back. But who should interpret it, and how? How should future generations consider the events of 9/11 and the people caught up in them? Good guidance came from "the partners," a coalition of groups representing Flight 93 family members, local residents, design professionals and the National Park Service. In their search for "that one brilliant answer," the partners have proceeded in a commendable way, beginning with a detailed mission statement that emphasizes commemoration, education and respect for the rural landscape.

The memorial must honor the dead, who are believed to have thwarted a planned attack on Washington, D.C. It should invite the public to express their feelings about the event, and it should preserve "the solemn and tranquil setting" of the crash site.

The memorial also must revere the site as hallowed burial ground, commemorate the events of 9/11, celebrate the lives of the passengers and crew, express the nation's appreciation, educate visitors about the tragedy, the events of 9/11 and offer a place of comfort, hope and inspiration.

Anyone could enter this open competition, and 1,011 individuals or teams did — about a fifth of the 5,201 entries in the World Trade Center memorial competition. While many were not professional designers, the pros had the edge, not only with their polished presentation boards but in their ability to speak and interpret the language of design. Most of the finalists are experienced design professionals; one is an architecture student.

Judge rules an embryo is a person

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — All Alison Miller and Todd Parrish wanted was to become parents. But when a fertility clinic didn't preserve a healthy embryo they created, they would one day become their child, they sued for wrongful death.

A judge refused to dismiss their case, ruling in effect that a test-tube embryo is a human being and that the suit can go forward.

Though most legal experts believe the ruling will be overturned, some in the fertility business worry it could have a chilling effect, threatening everything from in vitro fertilization to abortion rights and embryonic stem cell research.

"If the decision stands, it could essentially end in vitro fertilization," said Dr. Robert Schenken, president of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine. Few doctors would risk offering the procedure if any accident that harmed the embryo could result in a wrongful death lawsuit, said Schenken, chairman of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Texas in San Antonio.

He said the society, a professional group for fertility doctors, is considering filing a court brief opposing Friday's ruling by Cook County Judge Robert E. Sawyer.

The lawyer for the clinic, James Kopriv, declined to say if an appeal is planned, but added, "We're very confident about the decision." He said the suit was dismissed and do not believe Illinois law provides for the remedy provided by the ruling.

If the ruling for the couple holds, it would have no legal standing outside Illinois. However, it could provide impetus for groups desiring to push an agenda opposing both abortion rights and stem cell research, said Northwestern University law professor Victor Rosenthal, an abortion foe who has worked with anti-abortion activists.

Stars honor Dean on anniversary of birth

Legendary actor would have been 74

BY DAISY NGUYEN

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Was the "Rebel Without A Cause" driven to early death because of his rebellious nature? It depends on whom you ask.

Friends and former co-stars of James Dean disagree on whether he had a death wish, but all agree the screen idol influenced them and the moviegoing public.

Dean, who died 50 years ago in a car accident, would have been 74 on Tuesday, and a celebration of sorts was held to kick off a year-long celebration leading to his 75th birthday.

"We had talked about growing older," said actor Martin Landau. "He used to worry that he looked like a kid when he became an actor."

But photographer Phil Stern, who captured a famous shot of Dean with a turtleneck covering half his face, thinks Dean had no intention of growing old.

"Dean was very prescient because he structured his career in such a way that he passed away — which I believe was inevitable — in a way that precluded the possibility of people seeing him as a potted, bald man," Stern said.

Martin Sheen, who stars in NBC's "The West Wing," was only a boy when he saw Dean in "East of Eden." Dean's performance inspired Sheen to become an actor.

"All of his movies had a profound effect on my life, in my work and all of my generation," Sheen said. "He transcended cinema acting. It was no longer acting, it was human behavior."

Jane Withers said working with the sometimes aloof Dean in "Giant" was the highlight of her career, but she had to get past his attitude early on.

"He acted like a little kid, and when someone acts like a kid, I treat them like one," Withers



James Dean

said. "I didn't put up with any guff, and because of it, we had a very warm relationship."

Earl Holliman, who was also in "Giant," sees Dean's aloofness as a product of his desire to remain focused on work.

"Jimmy was a guy who didn't care what people think of him," Holliman said. "He said that wasn't important. What was important was what was on the screen."

Despite his brief Hollywood career, Dean's image as rebel anti-hero still resonates with marketers.

Warner Bros. plans to release "Giant," "Rebel" and "East of Eden" on DVD this year. And Dean's image will adorn two NASCAR racing cars this summer.

New allegations against Cosby

Knight Ridder Newspapers

PHILADELPHIA — A California lawyer says she has told Montgomery County, Pa., investigators who are probing sex allegations against Bill Cosby that the entertainer drugged her and tried to force himself on her about 30 years ago.

Tamara Green, a longtime criminal and civil lawyer and former fashion model, said she decided to tell her story after Cosby's lawyer and the Montgomery County district attorney publicly cast doubt on a former Temple University women's basketball executive's allegations that Cosby drugged and groped her at his Elkins Park, Pa., mansion last year.

"I realize that him doing it to me 30 years ago doesn't prove he did it to this girl today, but when I heard the circumstances, I felt compelled to call up and say, 'He did exactly the same thing to me,'" said Green, 57.

"Do I want everybody to know that he had his dirty paws all over me? No," she said.

"But I don't think it's right that they're going to disregard the woman and her allegations. I feel like they should look into it more seriously ..."

What she said convinced her to go public was not any desire for justice for herself or for money or even for publicity. She said she believes it was her "civic duty and moral obligation" to come forward after Cosby's lawyer denounced the Temple woman's



Cosby

claims as "bizarre and preposterous" and Montgomery County District Attorney Bruce L. Castor Jr. characterized the case against Cosby as

weak.

Cosby's lawyer, Walter Phillips Jr., denied Green's allegations. He would not answer questions about her story. "I've spoken with my client," Phillips said. "Mr. Cosby does not recognize the names Tamara Green or Tamara Lucier [her maiden name]. ... [T]he incident you described did not happen in any way, shape or form."

Cosby also has denied the former Temple executive's allegations.



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OPINION

Troop increase justified by new obligations

The Washington Post

After President Bush bluntly ruled out an "artificial timetable" for withdrawal from Iraq, the Pentagon delivered a sobering follow-up: While the 15,000 additional U.S. troops deployed for the Jan. 30 elections will be withdrawn, the 17 remaining brigades — 135,000 soldiers and Marines — will be needed in Iraq at least through the end of this year.

That estimate is understandable, given the continuing strength of the Sunni insurgency and the troubles in preparing Iraqi security forces. In fact, even the election reduction seems questionable, given that vital infrastructure and roads in Iraq, and even the highway from downtown Baghdad to the airport, have not been secured. Yet the alarming truth may be that the administration has little choice but to draw down troops: As it is, the present deployment in Iraq is on the verge of breaking an undisciplined Army.

[Last week] senior military officials gave the latest in a series of alarming reports about the strain

on the Army and Marines from two years of fighting simultaneous wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Carrying out a fourth rotation of troops into Iraq in the fall will be "painful," Gen. Richard A. Cody testified before the House Armed Services Committee; he suggested that it might necessitate breaking a rule that limits reservists to 24 months of active duty. Congressional pressure obliged the Pentagon to quickly pick that trial balloon, but the troops will have to come from somewhere.

By the time the fall mobilization takes place, all 15 of the National Guard's most deployable brigades will have been mobilized, and some regular units may have to return next year for a third combat tour. Some are risking their lives involuntarily: Stop-loss orders for soldiers completing their service and the recall of some already discharged have created a backdoor draft.

Predictably, it is getting harder and harder for the Army and Marines to recruit young men and women willing to bear such hardships. The Marines missed their recruiting goal last month for the first time in a decade, and all of the

reserve corps except the Marines missed their recruiting goals in the first quarter of this fiscal year. The National Guard signed up barely half of the recruits it aimed for in January; its commander warned in December that unless it received \$20 billion in new weapons and equipment, the force "will be broken."

For several years, policy experts and congressmen from both parties have been warning Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld that the size of the Army must be increased to meet the challenges of the war against terrorism, notwithstanding his pet doctrine — developed before Sept. 11, 2001 — of a lighter force. Now, thanks to Mr. Rumsfeld's stubborn refusal to listen, a crisis is at hand.

The Pentagon may finally be conceding some ground: Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz told the Senate Armed Services Committee [last week] that a temporary increase of 30,000 troops in the Army would be made permanent in the 2007 budget and that a quadrennial review of Pentagon doctrine ending under way would reconsider the size of the force. That's a step in the right direction,



but more urgent action is needed.

Last month, a bipartisan group of former senior defense and security officials and policy experts delivered a letter to Congress recommending an increase in the active-duty Army and Marines to

gether of at least 25,000 troops each year over the next several years. Since such a buildup does not appear in the administration's budget for next year, Congress should require it — before the damage to the military grows worse.

U.S. must respect S. Korea's precarious position

BY BENJAMIN S. KNIGHT
The Providence (R.I.) Journal

More than three years ago, restaurants in Seoul were refusing to serve Americans, "F&S America" became a battle, and the national teachers union was disseminating lesson plans teaching anti-Americanism to schoolchildren.

Things have toned down considerably, and yet anti-American protests remain a common sight. This is our most important partner in resolving the issue of North Korea — an President Kim Jong Il's nuclear program, and as the third-largest foreign military presence in Iraq, an essential ally in the war against terror.

This is disconcerting, not just because the United States needs every friend it has, but because as annoyance turns to anger, South Korea will naturally start looking elsewhere for a powerful friend to help ensure its security. China would love to renege the paternalistic relationship it has traditionally had with a unified Korea, and today there are signs of that relationship's re-emerging.

Now that China has replaced the United States as the chief consumer of South Korean goods, more and more South Koreans are learning Mandarin, as opposed to English. According to the U.S. Institute of International Education, the number of South Koreans studying in the United States grew 11 percent in 2001. But in large part because of the extraordinary difficulty of obtaining a U.S. visa post-Sept. 11, that annual growth has since slowed to 5 percent. Meanwhile, the number of South Koreans studying in China has increased tenfold in the last two years.

International students are the best conduits of American culture and perspective, an important advantage that is slowly being forfeited to China.

Further contributing to a decline in U.S. prestige and influence is the withdrawal of American troops from South Korea to fight in Iraq, a move foreign officials here (in Seoul) to question just how much the United States can be counted on.

On the diplomatic front, China's pressur-

ing of North Korea to return to six-party talks on its nuclear program has, in South Korea's eyes, contributed far more toward resolving the nuclear standoff than anything that the United States has done as of late, especially in view of President Bush's penchant for "talking tough." Many in South Korea consider Bush to be a greater threat to stability than Kim Jong Il.

Given how poor America's image is here, and the high frustration that many South Koreans feel toward the United States, it is easy to forget that the common interests between the two countries are many. The following factors should continue to unite South Korea and the United States for the foreseeable future:

■ South Korea's historic successes in preserving its sovereignty (despite its small size) came as a result of carefully balancing one great power against another. South Korea benefits only if the United States and China compete over its affections.

■ The United States has never made any territorial claims on Korea. However, with the declaration by Chinese historians that the ancient Korean kingdom of Koguryo was, in fact, part of China, Beijing has effectively done just that.

■ The United States would greatly benefit should a united, democratic Korean state emerge, whereas China would lose a useful buffer state and ally, and thus is unlikely to earnestly support reunification.

For the time being, the chances of South Korea's embracing China in lieu of the United States are slim. Nevertheless, it is a relationship that should not be taken for granted. If the United States is to ensure that South Korea remains a dependable ally in the years to come, it must begin to re-evaluate how it deals with both North and South.

A good start is doing a better job of acknowledging our ally's contributions. It makes for bad press when the president forgets to mention South Korea's contribution of 3,600 troops to Iraq.

Another good idea would be if the United States consulted more with South Korea about North Korea. As much as South Korea's "Sunshine Policy" and Bush's "Axis of Evil" might be at odds with each other, remember that South Korea not only has the most to lose in another Korean war, but also has more experience in dealing with North Korea as a potential threat. The United States should do more to cultivate a public

image of standing with our ally in rapprochement with the North, as opposed to wringing South Korea's arm to deploy troops to Iraq.

Finally, in addition to decreasing the U.S. military presence slowly and incrementally, it wouldn't hurt if commanders did more to rein in wild U.S. troops. Pictures of American soldiers with South Korean prostitutes abound, and elicit a very strong reaction in this deeply Confucian country. State Department talk of "lessening America's footprint" in South Korea indicates that it is only too aware of the problem.

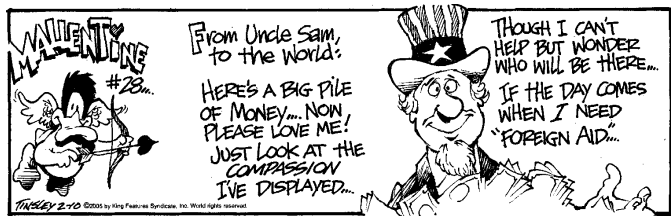
While South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun's administration is keenly aware of the dangers of falling out with the United States, America's challenge now must be to instill in the current generation the same respect for the United States, and U.S.-South Korean relations, held by their elders. Given how much South Korean and American interests coincide, to do so should not be difficult.

However, as more and more youths reach voting age, irritated at what they perceive to be a unilateral and unhelpful ally, the clock is most certainly ticking.

Benjamin S. Knight teaches in South Korea under a grant from the Fulbright Foundation.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



IN THE WORLD

Policemen investigate the scene where a powerful car bomb exploded in Madrid on Wednesday. The blast followed a telephone warning from a caller claiming to represent the armed Basque separatist group ETA. The attack injured at least 43 people, officials said.



Car bomb injures 43 in Madrid; ETA blamed

BY ED McCULLOUGH

The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — A car bomb exploded Wednesday in a business park on the outskirts of Madrid just after the morning rush hour, injuring 43 people. Government officials blamed the Basque separatist group ETA.

The blast blew out windows at the back of a modern, six-story, brick-and-glass office building located about 10 yards from the car, which was destroyed.

Most of the injured were people inside who suffered cuts from flying glass shards.

"What saved me... was my computer," which faced the first-story

window, said Manuel Amerentes, communications director for Bull, the French computer maker which has its offices in the building.

"I think it's destroyed," said Amerentes, who was knocked to the floor by the blast.

Bull's director-general for Spain, Julio del Valle, has an office overlooking the street where the car was parked. His window was blown out by the blast. "I was really lucky," he said, with a bandaged right hand and flecks of blood on his suit.

Authorities noted a caller claiming to represent ETA gave the general location of the attack less than an hour before it happened.

Speaking from Poland, where he's on an official visit, Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero said, "I want to tell ETA terrorists, and those who support them, that there is no room for them in political life nor in society. Bombs lead only to prison."

In Madrid, Interior Minister Jose Antonio Alonso noted 14 ETA suspects were arrested Tuesday and the car bomb went off Wednesday.

"Those are the facts." The Basque regional parliament wants Spain to accept "shared sovereignty" over the three-province region, across the Pyrenees mountains from southwest France. Last week the national Parliament voted a resounding "no."

Israel to lift travel restrictions

BY MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH

The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Israel will lift travel restrictions on Palestinians in parts of the West Bank and abandon several major checkpoints as part of its withdrawal from five towns in the coming weeks, Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas said Wednesday.

Free travel would be the most tangible improvement yet in the lives of ordinary Palestinians, sending a strong message that a cease-fire with Israel is beginning to pay off. Abbas made the announcement a day after meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon at a Mideast summit in Egypt.

A senior Israeli military official confirmed that several roadblocks would be removed as part of the handover of security responsibility for the five towns to the Palestinians. The handover of Jericho,

Tulkarem, Qalqilya, Bethlehem and Ramallah will occur during the next three weeks, according to a timetable agreed to by Abbas and Sharon on Tuesday.

A second meeting between the two, set for Sharon's Sycamore Ranch in southern Israel, could take place "in the coming days or a week," said Raanan Gissin, an adviser to Sharon.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia met with the West Bank security commanders and instructed them to be prepared to take responsibility for the five areas, participants said.

Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat said Israel and the Palestinians would form four committees that would begin meeting next week to coordinate the moves.

Before the violence erupted four years ago, tens of thousands of Palestinians worked in Israel. Additionally, 500 merchants

will be allowed to enter Israel for business, and relatives will be allowed to visit Gaza residents incarcerated in Israeli prisons. Four hundred Palestinian employees of international organizations will be allowed to move freely between Gaza and the West Bank.

A roadblock cutting off Gaza's main north-south road will be opened 24 hours to public transport and Palestinian security vehicles, though not to private cars.

Meanwhile, U.S. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, visiting the USS O'Bannon anchored off the coast of France on Wednesday, said more moderate Islamic nations are needed to counter the threat of extremism.

Rumsfeld, in Nice, France for a meeting of NATO defense ministers, held up the governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan as such moderates willing to help in the U.S.-led war on terrorism. He said he hoped Iraq would also emerge as such a nation.

Rice to Iran: Answers expected to program inquiries

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Wednesday that Iran cannot delay indefinitely accountability for a suspected nuclear weapons program, but said the United States has set "no deadline, no timeline" for Tehran to act. Rice, making her first visit to Europe as Washington's top envoy, said the United States remains in "closer consultations" with its European allies on the issue.

But she warned Tehran that the United States would not accept foot-dragging by the government there as officials weigh various diplomatic overtures by European nations to resolve the nuclear question.

Rice said Iran must live up to its obligations. "I think it's quite clear, and I believe everybody is telling the Iranians that they are going to have to live up to their international obligations," she said at a news

conference with NATO officials. "It is obvious that if Iran cannot be brought to live up to its international obligations, in fact, the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) status and a variety of steps Iran would have to be referred to the U.N. Security Council."

"I think the message is there — the Iranians need to get that message," she said, adding that Tehran should know that "there are other steps" the international community can take.

In the Fox interview, Rice said: "We have believed all along that Iran ought to be referred to the Security Council and then a variety of steps are available to the international community."

Rice told reporters Iran already is on notice that it must not use a civilian nuclear power program to build a weapons project. Iran has denied making nuclear weapons, and says its nuclear activities are geared solely toward generating electricity.



Pope John Paul II waves to faithful from a window of Rome's Agostino Gemelli hospital as he appears for the Sunday Angelus prayer. The 84-year-old pope, who was rushed to the hospital last week, is now doing better and celebrated Ash Wednesday.

Pope makes Ash Wednesday observance in hospital room

The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — His forehead smeared with the traditional mark of mortality, Pope John Paul II celebrated Ash Wednesday in his hospital room, missing public prayers opening the Lenten season of fasting and reflection for the first time in 26 years.

The frail 84-year-old pope, surrounded by his personal physician and other doctors treating him for the flu and breathing trouble, held Mass in his tightly guarded suite at Rome's Gemelli Polytechnic. Ash Wednesday is a day with special resonance for believers getting the biblical reminder: "You have come from dust and to dust you shall return."

John Paul received ashes he had blessed earlier during Wednesday's ceremony at the hospital, where he was rushed on Feb. 1 with throat spasms. The pope invited his personal doctor, Renato Buzzonetti, and others to join him, papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said.

Cardinal Camillo Ruini, the pope's vicar for Rome, said the pope looked "really well" more than a week after his urgent hospitalization.

Doctors urged John Paul to prolong his hospital stay to be on the safe side, and the Vatican has not set a date for his discharge. The pope was not expected to leave the hospital before Thursday, when the Holy See issues its next update on his health and recovery.

In services at St. Peter's Basilica originally scheduled as a papal event, American Cardinal James Stafford presided in the name of John Paul. It was the first time since he became pope in 1978 that he missed public Ash Wednesday prayers, which kick off a 40-day period of fasting and prayer for Roman Catholics culminating with Easter.

In addition to serving as a reminder of mortality, the ashes also symbolize penitence and humility.

Blair 'sorry' for wrongful convictions in IRA attacks

BY ED JOHNSON
The Associated Press

LONDON — Prime Minister Tony Blair on Wednesday issued a public apology to 11 people whose wrongful imprisonment for IRA bombings three decades ago was dramatized in the film "In the Name of the Father."

The people were jailed in connection with Irish Republican Army bombings in the English towns of Guildford and Woolwich in 1974, which killed a total of seven people and injured more than 100.

All 11 were subsequently acquitted and the case is regarded as one of Britain's biggest miscarriages of justice.

"I am very sorry that they were subject to such an ordeal and injustice," said Blair in a televised statement.

"The Guildford and Woolwich bombings killed seven people and injured more than 100. Their loss, the loss suffered by their families, will never go away. But it serves no one for the wrong people to be convicted for such an awful crime."

One of them, Anne Maguire, welcomed the apology, delivered to television cameras in Blair's House of Commons office.

"This is very important to my family and their children and our great-grandchildren," Maguire said after meeting Blair with other family members.

"We would like it to be the police and that apologizing. It is lovely for Mr. Blair to do it."

In the critically acclaimed 1993 film, "In the Name of the Father," actor Daniel Day-Lewis portrayed one of the accused, Gerry Conlon, who served 15 years in jail. Pete Postlethwaite played Conlon's father, Giuseppe, who died in prison in 1980.

"It is a matter of great regret when anyone suffers a miscarriage of justice, said Maguire, who met with some of the acquitted on Wednesday.

"And, as with the others, I recognize the trauma that the conviction caused the Conlon and Maguire families and the stigma which wrongly attaches to them to this day," Tony Blair British Prime Minister

ire families and the stigma which wrongly attaches to them to this day. I am very sorry that they were subject to such an ordeal and such an injustice. That's why I am making this apology today. They deserve to be completely and publicly exonerated."



AP Photos

The Year of the Rooster began Wednesday, kicking off a weeklong Spring Festival holiday, the most important in the Chinese calendar. To celebrate, Chinese burned sticks for good luck at Beijing's White Cloud Temple on Wednesday.

Chinese celebrate Year of the Rooster

The Associated Press

BEIJING — A holiday calm fell over bustling cities as Chinese communities across Asia welcomed the Year of the Rooster with prayers Wednesday for tsunami victims and a safer 2005.

Businesses and government offices from Beijing to Singapore closed as hundreds of millions of ethnic Chinese visited temples and held family reunions to mark the passing of the Year of the Monkey.

In Indonesia's tsunami-ravaged Aceh province, worshippers at the Vihara Dharma Bhakti temple in the provincial capital of Banda Aceh burned incense as they bowed in prayer for the tens of thousands killed there by the Dec. 26 disaster.

"We feel a great emptiness inside, but we're here to give

thanks for our protection and to pray for the forgiveness of sins and peacefulness of those who died," said Lai Nier Sin, a hairdresser whose older brother's family was washed away.

In Beijing, a city of 14 million people, streets were nearly deserted as tens of thousands of people thronged temples in a freezing wind to pray for good fortune amid clouds of perfumed incense smoke.

Security was heavy in an effort to prevent a repeat of a disaster in February in which 37 people were killed in a stampede at a festival in the Chai-nese capital marking the end of the holiday.

Elsewhere in China, millions of people who streamed out of cities to visit their hometowns for the most important holiday of the year were exchanging gifts and settling down to family feasts.



A woman prays for good luck before throwing incense sticks into a fire at White Cloud Temple on Wednesday.

Mobster feuds in Naples expand

BY DANIEL WILLIAMS
The Washington Post

NAPLES, Italy — If you're a gangster in Naples these days, even men's not safe.

In January, Carmela Attice answered a call on her condominium intercom from someone she recognized, went down to the front door and was met by three men. They pumped a dozen bullets into her. The reason, police say: Attice's son, Francesco, belonged to an organized crime faction locked in a battle for control of drug trafficking.

Over the past five months, a series of brazen killings here has provided a new meaning for the

adage in praise of this seaside city: "See Naples and die." About 135 people have been gunned down in the city's organized crime feud, about 40 of them in the neighborhood of Scampia, epicenter of the violence and the place where Carmela Attice lived and died. Mob-related killings in January numbered 16 city-wide; there have been four so far in February.

The variety of crime scenes and gruesome homicides has been stunning — a customer at a pizzeria shot dead and left face down in a still-warm pie; a restaurant owner killed at his cash register in plain view of customers; a woman shot point-blank and her

body stuffed in the trunk of a car that was then set on fire; shootings in a laundry, a tobacco shop and grocery stores.

The camera, the Neapolitan version of the Mafia, has existed for three centuries.

Like their better-known cousin, the Sicilian Mafia, the camorra operate abroad, safeguarding drug routes in both Eastern and Western Europe. The Naples bloodshed is being carried out through warring members of a single camorra clan, the di Lauros, with loyalists based in Naples fighting a renegade faction based in Spain, a major transfer point for drugs into Italy.

Special correspondent Stacy Meichtry contributed to this report.

Stars and Stripes Valentines Day Greetings

Valentines Day
Look for your greetings February 14th
in the Europe and Middle East editions

Messages sent to the Middle East
may also be viewed at www.stripes.com

Happy Valentine's Day
from Stars and Stripes

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper



100,000 UK fans pre-order new Potter book

LONDON — More than 100,000 fans have pre-ordered the new Harry Potter book that goes on sale in five months' time, the British division of online book retailer Amazon said Monday.

The sixth title in the hugely successful series by J.K. Rowling, "Harry Potter And The Half-Blood Prince," went to the top of amazon.co.uk's sales chart on the first day of its announcement on Dec. 22, 2004.

The children's version of the book, rumored to have a different cover design from the adult copy, has remained in the No. 1 spot ever since. Amazon.co.uk says it is planning to send out all pre-ordered copies of the book to arrive on July 16, the day of public release.

Danish PM wants EU constitution referendum

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — Denmark's newly re-elected government will return to the campaign trail later this year to encourage voters to adopt the European Constitution in a referendum, Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen said Wednesday.

Danes gave Fogh Rasmussen's government a second four-year term Tuesday, embracing his pledge to keep immigration in check, and taxes, among Europe's highest, from rising.

With 99.7 percent of the votes tallied, the governing bloc — a coalition of Liberals, Conservatives and the anti-immigration Danish People's Party — received 54 percent of the vote and 95 seats in the 179-seat Folketing, or parliament.

Rasmussen hopes to persuade Danes to approve the EU constitution in a referendum later this year or next. The historic charter must be approved by all 25 EU members.

From the Associated Press

Murder charge

GA DAHLONEGA — A man who reported his wife missing more than 11 years ago has been charged with her murder after authorities following a tip found bones and clothes they believe belonged to the woman.

David Lamar Dowdy, 61, was charged just hours after investigators found the remains they think belonged to his wife, Villa Inez Dowdy, on federal land in northern Georgia.

A Georgia Bureau of Investigation analysis will determine if the remains belong to the woman, who was reported missing in September 1993 at the age of 42.

Robbery suspect nabbed

VA ATLANTIC CITY — A suspect in a string of deadly jewelry store robberies was captured by police at a \$39-a-night motel just one block from police headquarters after officers surrounded his hideout and persuaded him to give up.

Christopher DiMeo, 23, surrendered peacefully after officers surrounded the Ascot Motel, where he and his girlfriend had checked in the day before.

He was jailed on a parole violation from New York state, but is suspected in four robberies and three killings, including the deaths of a couple in Fairfield, Conn., authorities said.

Authorities believe DiMeo chatted up store employees for as long as 45 minutes before the robberies, saying he was looking for an engagement ring, then pulled out a gun and took merchandise worth hundreds of thousands of dollars altogether. Police had described him as talkative and engaging, with piercing blue eyes.

School seeks students

KS LAWRENCE — The Lawrence Virtual School wants to expand. It hopes to add to the 144 online students it taught in its first year by hosting 40 open house programs around Kansas.

Students work mostly from home, staying in touch with teachers by computer. Parents must have regular parent-teacher conferences by phone, in person or e-mail.

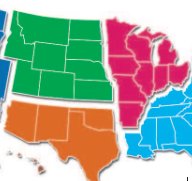
Police: Baby abused

TX HOUSTON — A young couple are accused of critically injuring their 6-month-old baby, who police say was sexually assaulted, suffered broken bones from head to toe, and had her tongue nearly severed.

Donna Marie Norman, 19, and her common-law husband, Ivan Castaneda, 21, were jailed without bail on charges of causing injury to a child.

The infant was in critical condition at a hospital. She was transferred there after her parents brought her to another hospital, saying she was suffering from congestion.

Norman told doctors when the infant's tongue was severed that she tried to remove a quarter from the baby's mouth that had been placed there by her 15-month-old sister, prosecutor Karl Allen said. "Obviously, that is a bit far-fetched," Allen told a judge at a hearing.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Boys escape icy lake

VT BURLINGTON — Two boys fell through the ice on Lake Champlain while skating near the Burlington shoreline, although they were able to pull themselves out of the 34-degree water and reach shore, according to an eyewitness.

Greg Noonan was watching the two boys skate on broad lake ice below his home. The boys skated over some rough ice, Noonan said, then some thin ice. Then they were gone.

"They dropped like a shot," Noonan said. "They just went through."

Noonan grabbed his phone, called 911 and rushed out of his house to get down to the shore on a route that took him out of view of the lake for an instant. When Noonan saw the boys again, they were back on the ice. Noonan and two neighbors helped the boys to the shore and up to a house.

Egg McMuffin rage

MI HOLLAND — A man was fined \$600 and put on probation for throwing an Egg McMuffin at a McDonald's restaurant manager after he said he didn't get what he ordered.

Scott Rodgers, 46, was convicted of misdemeanor assault and bat-

tery. Besides probation, he was sentenced to three days in a work program and a fine and is banned from the McDonald's. Authorities said Rodgers and his 6-year-old son stopped to get four Egg McMuffins with ham on Oct. 9 but returned to the service window to complain that at least one of the sandwiches had sausage.

A sticky situation

LA SHREVEPORT — Add this to the many uses of duct tape.

Ark-La-Tex Narcotics Task Force agents and Caddo Parish sheriff's deputies stopped a man at a Greyhound terminal after they said he was acting suspiciously, sheriff's spokeswoman Cindy Chadwick said.

While being patted down for weapons, Charlie Ross told officers it was a back brace they felt around his chest — not nearly \$55,000 in cash stuck to him with duct tape.

Ross, 50, was not able to produce a transaction receipt required under federal law for anyone carrying more than \$10,000 in cash, Chadwick said. He also would not say where he got the money, so he was booked with money laundering, she said.

Authorities learned later that Ross was a fugitive from Ouachita Parish.

Statement cut short

CA SANTA ANA — A retrial in an alleged gang rape got off to a rocky start with the judge cutting off a defense attorney's opening statement after he described the alleged victim as a liar, a drug dealer and a "sex-crazed teenager."

"That's it, we're done for the day," Superior Court Judge Francisco Briseno said, dismissing the jury. He accused lead defense attorney Joseph G. Cavallo of "stepping over the line."

Earlier, prosecutors said Gregory Haidt, 19, son of a former Orange County assistant sheriff, and two 20-year-old friends "crossed the line between outrageous behavior and criminal conduct," by taking part in the gang rape of a 16-year-old girl and videotaping the assault.

School locked down

HI HONOLULU — A Leeward Oahu high school was locked down for about an hour because of a fight on campus.

Six students were arrested following the brawl just before lunchtime at Nanakuli High School, the Department of Education said.

Police said they used pepper spray to break up the fight involving about 50 students.

The school was locked down between 12:15 p.m. to 1:20 p.m.

It was the fourth Oahu public school fight in the past week, but it was not clear if the incidents were related, officials said.

Back to work

NV CARSON CITY — The 73rd Nevada Legislature opened with taxes, marijuana, health care and schools among its top issues.

Nevada's 42 Assembly members and 201 senators have 120 days to do the state's business. That is, unless they don't finish in time and Gov. Kenny Guinn summons a special session as in 2003.



Object of my reflection

Jefferson Elementary School fifth-grader Mariah Bokman leaps over a puddle on her way to her safety patrol post in Fairbault, Minn.



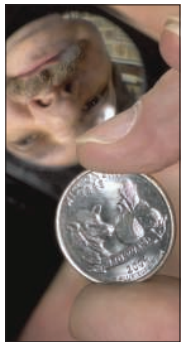
Cooling off

A horse cools down by rolling in the snow in a pasture east of Eagle, Colo.



Pampered pet

Gail Radke of Olathe, Kan., prepares Seattle, a Great Pyrenees, for the show ring at the 70th annual St. Joseph Kennel Club dog show in St. Joseph. Mo. Radke said Seattle loves the grooming and often sleeps through it.



Coin defect

Rob Weiss, owner of Old Pueblo Coin Exchange Inc. in Tucson, Ariz., holds one of several Wisconsin quarters he found with unusual markings resembling extra coin leaves on the back. The U.S. Mint is trying to determine how the differences came about.



Hanging around

Denzay Wilson, 6, of Salina, Kan., plays at the Oakdale School playground in Salina. Denzay's father, Isaac Wilson, had taken a group of children out for an evening of play in the unseasonably warm weather.



Stuck in the muck

Doug Miller, left, and Aubrey Clark, both from Leaksville, Miss., free their covered wagon from the mud in Hattiesburg, Miss. The two are part of the Leaf Trail Riders, a group of 10 wagons that stopped over in Hattiesburg while traveling to Jackson, Miss.



Festive attire

Tiffany Tran, 7, wearing a traditional Chinese dress, dances during the Chinese New Year Festival in Oakland, Calif.



Do not try this at home

Using his tractor and a chain saw, Ron Schultz of Lanark, Ill., reaches up to trim branches from a tree.

A mansion needs these

AR LITTLE ROCK — Plans for a new governor's mansion include a reflecting pool, a classical temple and a pyramid-shaped vaulted ceiling in the master bedroom. Radio station KUAR obtained architectural drawings for the 8,700-square-foot complex that would adjoin the current mansion. Gov. Mike Huckabee and his wife say they have only 1,000 or so square feet of private living space.

Dress code dispute

KY SHEPHERDSVILLE — Lisa Whiteside began protesting outside Bullitt Central High School after learning that two Muslim students who had enrolled after winter break had been allowed to wear a hijab, which covers the head and neck.

Whiteside said her son, a senior, was given in-school suspension for wearing a white button-down shirt rather than the mandated polo-style shirts.

School board attorney Eric Farris said that school records indicated that the student wasn't disciplined, but received a warning Sept. 1 that his shirt was in violation of the dress code.

Though the dress code also prohibits headwear, Farris said federal protections of such religious garments as hijabs take precedence.

School officials and students said Whiteside's protests attracted the attention of the Ku Klux Klan. She was joined outside the school by other men and women, some of whom were clad in white robes and carried Confederate flags and white-supremacist regalia.

Whiteside said she didn't organize any involvement with the KKK, adding that her concerns were being misconstrued as racial-driven.

No abuse found

MO KANSAS CITY — A jury acquitted a businessman in his third trial on charges he sexually abused his stepdaughter over a three-year period.

Theodore White, 42, of Lee's Summit, was cleared of 12 charges, including statutory rape and statutory sodomy. Jurors deliberated about two hours.

White was convicted in February 1999 of molesting his stepdaughter over three years starting in 1995, when the girl was 10 years old. He fled to Costa Rica while awaiting sentencing but was captured after the case was featured on the TV show "America's Most Wanted." He was returned to Missouri and sentenced to 50 years in prison.

White was retried after the state Court of Appeals found that prosecutors did not reveal that a detective investigating the allegations had an affair with White's estranged wife.

Mail transformation

NY VESTAL — A former shopping plaza is being transformed into a housing complex for University of Binghamton students.

Developers of the \$40 million project said the complex will be able to house 700 students and a few businesses. The Binghamton University Foundation and private developers funding the project expect the complex will be ready for the fall semester.

Teen blames Zoloff

SC CHARLESTON — A teenager who contends the antidepressant Zoloff turned him into a killer stood in court and acknowledged he shot his grandparents as they slept and set their house on fire.

Christopher Pittman agreed when Judge Danny Pieper read a statement the defense doesn't contest that the then-12-year-old killed his father's parents when he was living with them in rural Charleston County in September 2001.

Prosecutors contend Christopher shot Joe and Joy Pittman with a pump-action shotgun because they disciplined him for fighting on a school bus. The 15-year-old is being tried as an adult for murder and could get 30 years to life in prison if convicted.

The defense claims Christopher was under the influence of Zoloff and couldn't tell right from wrong at the time of the slayings.

Zoloff maker Pfizer has vigorously fought Zoloff's claims that antidepressants cause violent or suicidal behavior.

And laptops for all

CT HARTFORD — Gov. M. Jodi Rell is proposing that the state spend more than \$15 million to provide laptop computers for all ninth- and 10th-grade English classrooms. Education Commissioner Betty Sternberg proposed the project because the state will eventually put the Connecticut Academic Performance Test online. The tests measure proficiency in math, reading and science.

Teacher goals rewarded

MN LA CRESCENT — Gone are the days when teachers' salaries rose automatically with years of experience, or academic credits. In this idyllic Mississippi River town, teachers get an annual raise only if they set and fulfill performance goals.

The idea of performance pay — a notion once reviled by most teachers — is getting a warmer reception here.

Teachers are trying hard to prove they're worth the money, from more frequent student testing, to e-mailing parents, to trying out different styles for their students.

Smell just too much

ME FRENCHVILLE — Northern winds have been sending a stench of manure from across the Canadian border, and the people in this St. John Valley town are tired of holding their noses.

"It smells like acid or sulfur, and it's really strong. The last couple of weeks have been really bad," Frenchville Town Manager Philip Levesque said.

Levesque said the odor comes from a chicken manure composting facility in New Brunswick.

People in the town of about 1,200 say smells from the plant along the St. John River are so bad when the north wind blows outdoor activities are curtailed.

Levesque said complaints to environmental officials have brought no corrective action, so now the town is inviting politicians and government officials from both sides of the St. John River to meet with residents Feb. 16 to air the issue.

Photos and stories from wire services

FACES



This promotional photo provided by Paramount Network Television shows actress Catherine Bell as Lt. Col. Sarah "Mac" MacKenzie in CBS's military law drama "JAG." The show is trying to tackle topics that have come up during the Iraq war.

'Definitely intense'

'JAG' finds its war stories can hit close to home

BY BRIDGET BYRNE

The Associated Press

SANTA CLARITA, Calif. — The sound of gunfire ricochets inside a minaret as a private in the U.S. Marine Corps shoots a wounded, and apparently unarmed, Iraqi. Members of the camera crew remove their earplugs and discuss whether the scene went OK or needs a retake. It doesn't.

"Death at the Mosque" shooting in this suburb north of Los Angeles, will air as an episode of "JAG," the military law series.

This season, war has been featured prominently in several episodes reflecting real events in Iraq.

"How we approach the stories I think probably changes from month to month, not unlike the mood of the country — first some enthusiasm, then some doubt, some reservations," producer Peter Dunne says. "Our stories concern themselves more with the humane issues, the peace issues rather than the war issues ... because it's going to be the humanity that solves this war, not the weapons."

Local terrain in the hills visible from Dunne's Santa Clarita office provides convincing settings for Iraq as well as Afghanistan.

The series has always had cooperation from all branches of the armed services and often films on military bases, including the San Diego Naval Air Station and the Marines' Camp Pendleton nearby.

"You see all the young families there ... and how much we are like them, but are not suffering the same. We all have spouses, parents, children, whom we expect to find in the house at night when we get home, but they don't have that," says Dunne.

Created by Don Bellisario, the series follows the personal and professional trials of the Judge Advocate General Corps, the lawyers who investigate, prosecute and defend cases involving Navy and Marine personnel.

The stars of the legal team are Lt. Col. Sarah "Mac" MacKenzie, played by Catherine Bell, and Cmdr. Harmon

"Harm" Rabb, played by David James Elliott, who's leaving the series at the end of this season.

Chris Beitem, recently of daytime's "As The World Turns," has just been signed up as Lt. Gregory Vukovic, a charming but ethically defiant new member of the "JAG" team, who happens to be assigned to the minaret shooting.

Bell, whose toddler daughter is with her as she waits in her trailer for her next scene, mentions working at Pendleton on the day last month when 30 Marines and a Navy sailor or were killed in a helicopter crash in Iraq.

"Meeting guys who have lost their friends — or a young woman with a beautiful little 6-month-old baby whose father left for the war when the baby was 3 weeks old — you meet these people and, man, this is definitely intense," Bell says.

"This war, like every war that we have fought, changes law ... We try to examine that and put our JAG officer-heroes in the center of this firestorm of what now works and what doesn't work in the legal system ... Our characters, though they are not fighting the war, are fighting to interpret its effect on this country."

Peter Dunne
producer

known to May whether "JAG" will earn an 11th season, but Dunne feels the odds are with them: "I don't think there's ever been a shortage of good drama set in the military — it's one of the four main franchises — along with police work, law and medicine — that have held up, because they all provide the element of life or death."

And explaining the focus on reality-based war stories, Dunne says: "This war, like every war that we have fought, changes law ... We try to examine that and put our JAG officer-heroes in the center of this firestorm of what now works and what doesn't work in the legal system ... Our characters, though they are not fighting the war, are fighting to interpret its effect on this country."

McConaughey to start Daytona 500

Well, all right, all right, all right. Matthew McConaughey has been selected as the Grand Marshal for the 47th annual Daytona 500.

The 35-year-old actor will give the command, "Drivers, start your engines," at the Feb. 20 race in Florida, NASCAR announced Monday.

"I'm honored and excited to be the Grand Marshal of this year's race," McConaughey said in a statement. "There is nothing more American than NASCAR and the Daytona 500."

Ashton Kutcher will be the honorary starter of this year's race.



McConaughey

Grammy producer honored with star

Producer Pierre Cossette, who initiated the live Grammy Awards television broadcast in 1971, received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Cossette, who will mark his 35th anniversary as Grammy producer with Sunday's ceremony, received the 2,279th star on the walk, in front of the Pantages Theatre on Hollywood Boulevard.

Comedians Bob Newhart and Don Rickles took part in the ceremony Monday conducted by Johnny Grant, chairman of the Walk of Fame Committee and Hollywood's honorary mayor.

Director resigns post at film academy

Oscar-winning director Pedro Almodovar has resigned his post at Spain's Film Academy because of a disagreement over the voting system used to select winners of the Goya Awards, his production company said.

Almodovar, who was a member of the academy for 17 years, quit in December because the number of voters for the Goya, Spain's version of the Oscars, had been reduced and there was a lack of information about the people casting ballots for the prize, the director's production company, El Deseo, said Monday.



Almodovar

'Sex' star Davis becomes 'soccer mom'

Kristin Davis is moving from the "City" to the suburbs for her next TV project.

Davis, an Emmy nominee last year for the final season of HBO's "Sex and the City," has taken a lead role in ABC's pilot "Soccer Moms." Her signing removes the casting contingency from the project, the showbiz trade papers report.

"Soccer Moms" is a light drama that revolves around two suburban women who moonlight as private investigators. Don Todd ("Life as We Know It") and Marla Ginsburg ("Highlander") are writing the pilot and executive producing with Jeff Kline ("That Was Then").

Cheadle heads to Sudan for 'Nightline'

Don Cheadle, the Oscar-nominated star of "Hotel Rwanda," took on the role of a reporter for a "Nightline" segment on the ethnic conflict in the Sudan.

Cheadle reported from the African nation on Wednesday's edition of the late-night ABC news program as a "special correspondent," the network says. The actor and "Nightline" producer Rick Wilkinson accompanied several members of Congress on a recent fact-finding mission to examine what many observers are calling genocide in the country's Darfur region.

Rebel groups in the region accuse the Sudanese government of funding Arab militias called Janjaweed to wipe out non-Arab enclaves, a charge the government denies.

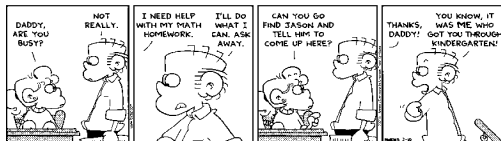
'Dreams,' 'Contender' swap spots on NBC

NBC has moved its boxing reality series "The Contender" yet again, setting the show on Sunday and moving "American Dreams" out of its three-year home and onto Wednesday nights for the remainder of its season.

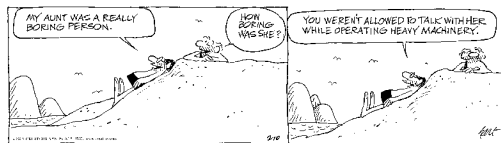
The moves are among several changes the network is making to its midseason schedule, including a special preview and new premiere date for the comedy "The Office" and an earlier start for the fourth "Law & Order" series.

Stories and photos from wire services

Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



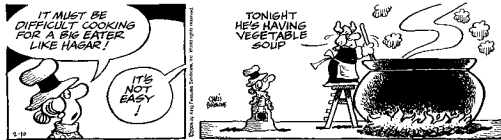
Blondie



Dilbert



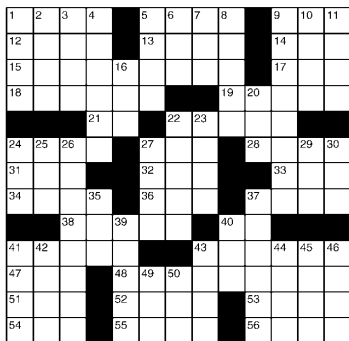
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Weaving apparatus
5 Infatuated
9 Milne's "Mr. — Passes By"
12 Lotion additive
13 Rhone city
14 Cold War faction (Abbr.)
15 Runt
17 Apiece
18 Play — (to pretend)
19 Rubber source
21 Poet cummings
22 Colander
24 Uppercase
27 Likely
28 Tackles' teammates
31 ID datum
32 Milner Sebastian
33 Father's Day gift
34 Maximally
36 PTA member
37 Cellar, in want ads (Abbr.)
38 Alternate
40 Continent (Abbr.)
41 Shopping center
43 Dash
47 Have something wrong
48 Baseball : Little League :: football : —
51 Western str.
52 1998 Andrea Bocelli album
53 Neutral shade

Down

- 14 Reindeer herder, maybe
27 Hodgepodge
3 "My bad"
4 Unkempt situations
5 Morose
6 Favorable vote
7 Asian antelope
8 Bracelet setting
9 Camping gear
10 "Not if — you first!"
11 "You Bet Your Life" emcee
16 What, in Osaka
20 Hall or farewell
22 Thread holder
23 Thing
24 Heathcliff, e.g.
25 Past
26 Pre-game morale booster
27 Pinnacle
28 Poorly lit
30 Collection
35 — who? (Sl.)
37 Keg
39 Relating to the pope
40 Health farm
41 Treaty
42 Fabulist
43 Bat a gnat
44 Erstwhile Peruvian
45 Dweeb
46 Authentic
49 Galena, e.g.
50 Brooch

Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-10

CRYPTOQUIP

J I U L F U G B F N L W T Z
N U G N Z T G F G S X U I Z I F X X F G S
B J G Z X M J X R W V V Z R " S U G Z
M F L E L E Z M F G R U M . "

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A SCRAWNY PUPPY IS BORN IN A STEELWORKS, I RECKON HE MUST BE RUNT-OF-THE-MILL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals S

SPORTS BOARD

AFTN-TV & Radio

Thursday

AFTN-Sports, 9 a.m.-11 a.m. USA men at Trinidad and Tobago, World Cup qualifier (Cable)

AFTN-Sports, noon-College basketball: Northern Iowa at Creighton (cable), **AFTN-Sports, 3 p.m.-Collegiate basketball:** North Carolina at Duke (cable)

AFTN-Sports, 6 p.m.-Collegiate basketball: Indiana at Cincinnati

AFTN-Sports, 9 p.m.-Golf: Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, first round.

Friday

AFTN-Atlantic, 1 a.m.-College basketball: Tennessee women at Wake Forest (cable)

AFTN-Sports and Radio, 2 a.m.-NBA: LA Lakers at Chicago

AFTN-Sports, 4 a.m.-College basketball: Sacramento at Sacramento

AFTN-Sports, 9 a.m.-NBA basketball: North Carolina St. at Wake Forest (cable)

AFTN-Sports, 7 p.m.-College basketball: Gonzaga at Pepperdine (cable)

AFTN-Sports, 9 p.m.-Golf: Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, second round.

All times are Central European Time (it includes daylight savings time). For more information, visit www.mysat.net.

College basketball

AP Men's Top 25 rated

Tuesday

1. Illinois (24-4) beat No. 10 Duke 57-51. Next vs. No. 20 Wisconsin, Saturday.

2. Kansas (25-1) did not play. Next vs. No. 7 Duke, Wednesday.

3. Kansas State (25-1) did not play. Next at Kansas State, Wednesday.

4. Boston College (20-5) lost to Notre Dame 66-65. Next vs. Rutgers, Wednesday, Feb. 16.

5. North Carolina (18-12) did not play. Next vs. Georgia, Saturday.

6. Virginia Tech (19-3) did not play. Next vs. North Carolina, Thursday.

7. Duke (17-10) did not play. Next vs. No. 22 Arkansas, Wednesday.

8. Louisville (21-1) did not play. Next at No. 22 Arkansas, Wednesday.

9. Oklahoma State (19-3) did not play. Next at Oklahoma State, Wednesday.

10. Washington (19-3) did not play. Next at Washington, Wednesday.

11. Arizona (19-4) did not play. Next at Arizona, Saturday.

12. Michigan State (15-4) did not play. Next at Michigan State, Saturday.

13. Gonzaga (17-4) did not play. Next at Seton Hall, Thursday.

14. Utah (20-3) did not play. Next vs. Colorado, Thursday.

15. Oklahoma (17-5) did not play. Next at Oklahoma, Saturday.

16. Alabama (17-4) did not play. Next at Tennessee, Wednesday.

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Tufts 97, Newbury 61

New England 77, 5 Vermont 66

Westchester Tech 70, Winthrop 68

South

Christopher Newport 68, N.C. Wesleyan 69

Florida Gulf Coast 65, Jacksonville 68, Fla. 49

Northwest 64, Campbell 68

Georgia Southern 68, UNC-Greensboro 79

Greenboro 84, Furman 68

North Carolina 70, Clemson 71

Kentucky 68, Florida 61

Ky. Christian 115, Appalachian Bible 68

North Carolina 70, Virginia Tech 71

Marshall 68, Savannah 68

Methodist 68, Averett 55

North Carolina 70, Fayetteville 57

Shaw 78, St. Paul's 65

North Carolina 70, Berea 54

Union, Ky. 56, vs. Belmont 70

Winthrop 72, High Point 55

Midwest

Albion 109, Tri-State 84

Bellevue 79, York, Neb. 68

Buena Vista 65, Loras 61

Buffalo 80, W. Michigan 79

Cedarville 68, Urbana 66

Genoa 65, Martin Luther 68

Genoa 65, Notre Dame Coll. 83

Northwest 68, Michigan 54

UofW 65, Nebraska 60

Luther 71, Cent. Iowa 65

Notre Dame 68, Boston College 65

North Carolina 70, Shawnee 69

Rio Grande 79, Wilberforce 63

St. Louis 80, E. Illinois 73

St. Francis, Ind. 64, Indiana Wesleyan 51

Wayne 64, Mount Vernon Nazarene 72

Washburn 71, Malone 72

Tiffin 84, Mt. Vernon Nazarene 72

West 68, Rockhurst 63

East West

Chaminade 92, W. Mexico 77

Montana 52, Billings 105, Hawaii-Hills 95

N.M. Highlands 107, Colo.-Colorado Springs 97

AP Women's Top 25 rated

Tuesday

1. LSU (21-1) did not play. Next vs. No. 5 Tennessee, Thursday.

2. Ohio State (22-1) did not play. Next vs. Michigan, Thursday.

3. Duke (22-2) did not play. Next at No. 19 Maryland, Sunday.

4. Stanford (19-3) did not play. Next at California, Friday.

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Colby-Sawyer 66, Curry 52

Delaware Valley 61, Drew 52

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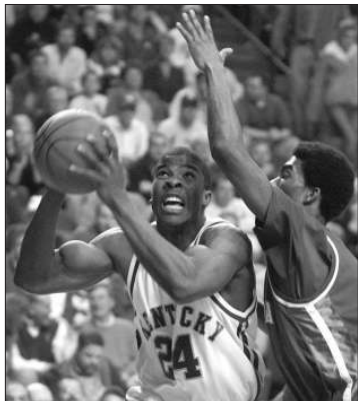
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Kentucky's Kelenna Azubuike tries to duck under the defense of Florida's Corey Brewer during the first half. Azubuike scored 18 points.

Kentucky maintains edge over Florida

The Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — The Kentucky-Florida rivalry has been awfully one-sided lately.

Kelenna Azubuike scored 18 points and the fifth-ranked Wildcats rallied from a nine-point second-half deficit to beat Florida 69-66 on Tuesday night — Kentucky's eighth straight win over the Gators.

"I don't know if you can call it a rivalry," Florida junior Matt Walsh said, "until we win some. I've never beaten Kentucky."

The Wildcats (18-2, 9-0 Southeastern Conference) beat the Gators (14-6, 6-3) for the 10th time in 11 games. Kentucky holds a three-game lead in the SEC East over second-place Florida with seven games remaining.

Kentucky's streak against the Gators has spanned the gamut from the sublime — a 70-55 romp in 2003, when Florida was ranked No. 1 — to the ridiculous — scoring the final 11 points in a three-point win last season.

On Tuesday, it was more of the same. Florida, which routed then-No. 11 Alabama by 31 points on Saturday, looked to be in control against Kentucky as well, leading by 11 in the first half and by nine with 16:57 left.

But Kentucky scored 13 of the next 15 points to go ahead 47-45.

The Wildcats went ahead for good at 53-52 on Azubuike's three-pointer with 9:52 left and held the lead thanks in good measure to the play of Rajon Rondo, their freshman point guard.

The 6-foot-1 Rondo had 14 points, seven rebounds and four assists. He also helped shut down Anthony Roberson, the SEC's second-leading scorer, in the second half, when he had eight mostly meaningless points after scoring 15 in the first half.

Rondo, a 50 percent free-throw shooter, even went 8-for-10 from



the line. Kentucky, which entered the game shooting 65.8 percent from the line, went 18-for-24 (75 percent) against the Gators.

Rondo "is quick enough to make Roberson work harder," Kentucky coach Tubby Smith said. "After halftime, he figured out how to guard him."

Kentucky had only three second-half turnovers after committing eight in the first half.

Kentucky led 64-54 after a three-point play by Azubuike with 3:37 left. Florida came within four points with a minute left and had two chances to pull closer, but Walsh and Roberson each missed three-point attempts.

Chuck Hayes, who had 11 points and nine rebounds, made two free throws for Kentucky with 26 seconds left and Moss went 1-for-2 from the line with 10 seconds left, sealing the Wildcats' eighth straight win since a home loss to Kansas.

No. 18 Pittsburgh 55, St. John's 44: Chevon Troutman had 19 points for the Panthers (16-4, 6-3 Big East), who pulled away after leading 17-15 at halftime.

Darryl Hill had 18 points for St. John's (8-12, 2-8), which upset Pitt 65-62 in New York on Jan. 18. The Red Storm dropped to 0-8 on the road.

Colorado 88, No. 23 Texas 79: Richard Roby scored 22 points and the Buffaloes (12-9, 4-6) withstood a big second-half run to beat Texas for the second time in nine games.

Brad Buckman had 27 points and 21 rebounds for the visiting Longhorns (15-7, 4-5), who have lost four of five and are down to seven scholarship players because of injuries and academics.

Brown rescues No. 1 Illinois, preserving perfect record

By LARRY LAGE

The Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Shots that normally go in for Illinois were bouncing on and off the rim. Loose balls the team usually corals were getting away. Dee Brown even mishandled a ball out of bounds on a fast break.

The top-ranked Illinois still couldn't be beat.

Brown scored 16 points and turned three straight steals into baskets, including the go-ahead three-point play, and Luther Head had 14 points to keep Illinois undefeated with a 57-51 victory over Michigan on Tuesday night.

"I'm blown away that people say you've got to lose to learn a lesson," Brown said. "I think we learned from Iowa, Indiana and this game."

The Illini (24-0, 10-0 Big Ten) overcame a total collapse on offense — going nearly 12 minutes without a field goal — and an eight-point deficit early in the second half to become the nation's only undefeated team. Previous unbeaten Boston College lost 68-65 at Notre Dame just minutes before Illinois finished off the Wolverines.

James Augustine, who scored 10 points, said it's only going to get more difficult to avoid a setback.

"Everyone is gunning for us," he said. "We're going to see this type of effort every game the rest of the way, but we've got a lot of motivation to keep this thing going."

Dion Harris had 21 points and seven rebounds for Michigan, while Courtney Sims scored 15 points and Chris Hunter had 10. The Wolverines (12-12, 3-7) have lost seven straight, their longest losing streak since the 1999-2000 season.

"We gave it all we had," Harris said. "Unfortunately, down the



Illinois guard Luther Head puts the pressure on Michigan guard Dion Harris in the second half. Head scored 14 points to help Illinois win.

stretch we had some costly turnovers, and we didn't make a lot of free throws."

The Wolverines were 7-for-14 at the line and had eight turnovers in the second half.

Daniel Horton, Michigan's standout point guard, missed his fifth straight game since being indefinitely suspended following a charge of domestic violence. Horton was scheduled for a pretrial hearing Wednesday morning.

Michigan coach Tommy Amaker was not satisfied with keeping it close against Illinois.

"It's still a loss," he said. "We're still disappointed."

Brown took over when Michigan was clinging to a 39-35 lead midway through the second half.

His three steals in just more than a minute led to three baskets, including the three-point play that gave Illinois the lead for good with 7:54 left.

"That was the differ-

ence-maker in the game, no doubt about it," Illinois coach Bruce Weber said.

Illinois, held to its lowest point total this season, proved again it can win without playing its best.

Two weeks ago, the Illini overcame an eight-point deficit in the second half to beat Wisconsin one game after Iowa pushed them to overtime. They scored just 69 in a victory over Indiana on Sunday.

"We've won a couple this year ugly," Brown said. "You just can't beat everyone by 20 or 15."

Michigan surprised the Illini by using much of the shot clock on most possessions.

Tommy really pulled out 'all the stops,' Weber said. "They changed their system."

Weber was proud of the way his players did what he wanted them to do in response to Michigan's slowdown tactics.

"They adapt within games. They're coachable within games," Weber said.

Streak: Falls' threes help fell Eagles

STREAK, FROM BACK PAGE

But Thomas escaped the Irish (14-6, 6-4) didn't have another meltdown, making four free throws in the final 1:11 to give Notre Dame a 66-59 lead.

"I just tried to smile and have fun out there," he said.

After Dudley scored inside with 30 seconds left, the Eagles forced a turnover and had a chance to cut the lead to two points.

But Dudley drew the lane and as he passed to Smith, he ran into Falls and was called for the offensive foul.

Every time Notre Dame needed a big basket, Falls hit a three-pointer. He hit two three-pointers in the second half to give the Irish an 11-point lead, and when BC cut the lead to 54-41 with 8:25 left he hit another. He did it again when the Eagles cut the lead to three with 6:43 left.

Falls said that refuse-to-lose mentality tonight, "Falls said.

Falls was 7-for-12 on three-pointers, a career-best effort from outside the arc.

Irish coach Mike Brey said he was surprised how open Falls was at times.

"I was a little shocked they left him," he said. "But if they want to let him play horse, that's fine."

Chris Quinn and Dennis Latimore each added 10 points for the Irish.

Dudley scored 13 of his 16 points in the second half for BC and had 11 rebounds.

It was Notre Dame's first win over a Top 10 team since Feb. 9, 2004, an 80-74 victory over No. 5 UConn. But it was their second win over a ranked team in three games as they beat No. 19 Connecticut 78-74 on Jan. 30, and for the second straight home game students flooded the floor to celebrate.

The Eagles were the latest team to arrive at the Joyce Center undefeated and leave with a loss. The most famous Irish win over an unbeaten team occurred in 1974, when UCLA came in 13-0 and on an 88-game winning streak. The Bruins lost when the Irish outscored the Bill Walton-led Bruins 12-0 over the final 3:32 to win 71-70.

The Irish also beat a top-ranked UCLA team that was 14-0 in 1971; beat No. 1 San Francisco (29-0) in 1977; and beat top-ranked DePaul (25-0) in double overtime in 1980.

Skinner said the loss, coming at the start of eight days off, wasn't all bad.

"It definitely comes at a good time," he said. "It gives us a chance to get refocused, sit down and start again."

TV workers strike halts men's ski race

By ANDREW DAMPE
The Associated Press

BORMIO, Italy — A race at the Alpine World Championships was postponed Wednesday when Italian TV workers went on strike, a dispute that comes with the Winter Olympics a year away and the IOC to meet this week in Turin.

"We could have certainly done without this," Italian Olympic Committee President Gianni Petrucci said.

Thousands were on their way to the course for the men's giant slalom when word of the strike came an hour before the start.

The race at the worlds — skiing's biggest event after the Olympics — was rescheduled for Thursday, originally an off day for competition. The championships are to end Sunday, and three other races are scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Turin Games organizers generally have received good marks from the International Olympic Committee after a series of successful test events, but budget shortfalls and this strike could heighten concerns.

"I'm disappointed, angry and frustrated," International Ski Federation general secretary Sarah Lewis said. "Everything was ready to go — 156 athletes and fan clubs had traveled especially

to be there. The giant slalom is always one of the most exciting events."

Strikes are common in Italy, although they usually are confined to domestic issues and events. This strike was over contract issues and organized by a small Milan union of RAI state TV workers. Some fans in the finish area attacked an RAI truck when they learned about the strike, forcing police to step in.

"As an IOC member I told the Turin organizing committee two years ago that they should try to have a law against strikes during the Olympics, and so far nothing I know has happened," FIS President Gian Franco Kasper.

The Turin organizing committee responded Wednesday by saying it intends to create an arrangement with workers' organizations that stipulates a "trade union truce" during the games.

Kasper called the protest a "wildcat strike." He said that under Italian law strikes by public services must be announced 24 hours beforehand and this was therefore an "illegal" strike.

U.S. head coach Phil McNichol said "the biggest loss today is ski racing."

"Racing is at an all-time low, we're trying to get a stronger foothold in TV, but yet we can't hold a world championships race because of television," McNichol said. "It's extremely disappointing."

Ken Read, head of the Canadian team and a former downhill racer, added: "It's despicable. This is no way to gain sympathy for their cause."

While not blamed for the strike, the local organizing committee in Bormio was chastened.

"It's embarrassing, embarrassing, shame. These are [our] reactions," the committee said in a statement. "Certain things only happen in Italy, and right now it's a day to forget in Bormio."

Kasper said he was informed of the strike threat Tuesday night but was unable to assemble a makeshift crew of Swiss, German and Austrian TV workers.

He said a FIS TV crew would be in place if the strike continued Thursday, and the race might proceed even without TV.

"We can carry out a competition with no TV," Kasper said. "We have to think about our [TV] spectators. We already don't have many spectators at our races, especially here."



Romeo Crennel answers questions at a news conference Tuesday when he was introduced as the Browns' first black coach.

Crennel now in charge of rebuilding Browns

By TOM WITHERS
The Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — Romeo Crennel walked into the news conference wearing one of his diamond-studded Super Bowl rings and a smile. In one hand, he held seven notecards chronicling 35 years of coaching experience.

He was missing a big parade and party back in Boston, and Crennel couldn't have cared less. There was no place else he wanted to be.

The lifelong assistant was finally a head coach.

"I get the spotlight, huh," he said.

Crennel's long wait ended Tuesday as New England's former defensive coordinator was introduced as coach of the Cleveland Browns, who just six years after their expansion return are rebuilding once again.

A coaching odyssey that began in 1970 at Western Kentucky and included stops at Texas Tech, Mississippi, Georgia Tech, New York and New England, has brought the 57-year-old coach back to Cleveland, where he was the defensive coordinator in 2000.

"I've been in this league for a while and I've been somewhat successful as a position coach," said Crennel, who won two Super Bowls with Bill Belichick. "Now, taking the reins of a team and trying to run a whole program is going to be special. It's a big challenge, but I think I'm ready."

The Browns, who have gone a

league-worst 30-66 with one playoff appearance since 1999, are counting on Crennel to end six seasons of chaos.

Crennel is the 11th full-time coach in team history and Cleveland's first black coach. He's also the NFL's sixth minority coach, but the only one boasting a Super Bowl ring for each finger of one hand.

Crennel would prefer to be known simply as a coach who wins.

"My skin color is black, but I am a head coach," he said. "I hope that I possess the qualities that are in a head coach with the leadership, organization, and the prioritizing. In many cases I have been the only African-American on a staff or in the neighborhood. The best thing I can do for other minority candidates is be successful and a role model."

Crennel received a five-year, \$11 million contract from the Browns, who are coming off a disastrous 4-12 season that was scuttled by major injuries and highlighted by the resignation of Butch Davis on Nov. 30.

He wants to mold a team in the image of the Patriots, one made up of tough players of high character.

"Now that I'm a head coach, if I can get the Cleveland Browns — the team — to play the way my defenses played with the Patriots, some of them no-name guys, then the Browns will be competitive and a team to be proud of," he said. "Know that it might not happen overnight because it takes time to build a winner."

McNabb was sick on Sunday

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Donovan McNabb was so ill in the fourth quarter of the Super Bowl that a Philadelphia Eagles teammate called one play in the huddle, center Hank Fraley told a TV station.

"He fought to the end. He gave it his all," Fraley said on Comcast SportsNet in a show aired Monday night. "He could hardly call the plays — that's how exhausted he was trying to give it his all. If you remember back when we played Jacksonville two years ago and he ended up puking, it was close to that scene. He exhausted everything he had."

Eagles spokesman Derek Boyko said Tuesday that McNabb could have been feeling sick — he fought a cold earlier in the week.

McNabb was shaky at times in Sunday's game. He passed for 357 yards and three touchdowns, but he also threw three interceptions.

The quarterback misfired on several passes early, held the ball too long at other times, and made several poor decisions. One of the best scramblers in the NFL, McNabb had zero yards rushing on just one carry and was sacked four times.

He struggled in particular in the fourth quarter, getting picked off twice and looking slow in getting the team moving late.

"He didn't get a play call in one time," Fraley said. "He mumbled and (receiver) Freddie Mitchell yelled out the play we were trying to bring in. He was puking at the same time, trying to hold it in."

Mitchell said on Tuesday that McNabb was having complications and "couldn't get it out so I just had to finish the play up."

"It was my first time being the quarterback in the NFL," Mitchell said on a local television station. "It was hard. He kind of tried to get the hand signals to the team, but I knew what he was thinking. I just finished the play up."

McNabb left Tuesday for Hawaii, where he will start for the AFC in Sunday's Pro Bowl. His agent did not immediately return a phone call Tuesday.

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Titans hire USC coordinator Chow

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Southern California assistant Norm Chow was hired as offensive coordinator of the Tennessee Titans on Wednesday after helping the Trojans win two consecutive national championships.

He was to be introduced at a morning news conference. Titans spokesman Robbie Bohren told The Associated Press.

Chow replaces Mike Heimerding, who was hired as the New York Jets' offensive coordinator last month. This is his first job in pro football after 32 seasons at

Sports briefs

BYU, North Carolina State and USC.

"I'm fired up — it's an exciting opportunity to get into the highest level of football," Chow told the Los Angeles Times. "But my family is very, very sad to leave USC because it's been such a great run."

Tennessee coach Jeff Fisher, a USC alumnus, also interviewed assistant head coach George Henshaw and quarterbacks coach Craig Johnson from his own staff.

Sharapova pulls out of Paris tournament

PARIS — Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova pulled out of the Open Gaz de France on Wednesday because of a respiratory illness.

"I'm very disappointed I won't be playing in Paris this year," the second-seeded Sharapova said in a statement. "I'm not in my best condition and will not be able to perform at my best."

Sharapova was scheduled to play in the Paris Open in Paris on Thursday against Tatiana Golovin of France.

Turin's turn



The Mole Antonelliana dome stands out on the Turin, Italy skyline. One year before the 2006 Turin Olympics, worries about the city's readiness to host the Games have subsided.

One year before Olympics, host city is right on track

BY ANDREW DAMPF
The Associated Press

Figure skaters glide across the freshly laid ice at the renovated Palavela arena. Short-track speedskating is a big hit with the locals. Ski and bobsled races come off without a hitch in the surrounding Alps.

One year before the 2006 Winter Olympics, Turin and the Piedmont region of northwestern Italy are getting a taste of the real thing. So far, so good.

Despite continuing budget, sponsorship and housing problems, a series of successful test events has eased concerns over the state of preparations for the Feb. 10-26, 2006, showcase — the first Winter Games in Italy since Cortina d'Ampezzo in 1956.

"I don't want any triumphalism — I'm aware that we still have a lot of work to do," organizing committee chief Valentino Castellani said. "But we don't have delays or emergencies."

A few months ago, Turin's preparations were being compared to Athens' frenzied, last-minute race to get ready for the 2004 Summer Olympics. Now there's a sense of relative calm among local organizers and International Olympic Committee officials.

"I don't think there is any possible comparison between Athens and Turin," said Gilbert Felli, the IOC's executive director for the Olympic Games. "The venue for figure skating is ready. The venues for cross-country, ski jumping and all the Alpine skiing are ready, so there is nothing to compare with Athens. They are on track."

Felli spoke after attending last week's opening of the European



Turin 2006 chief organizer Valentino Castellani, left, and Turin 2006 supervisor Mario Pescante talk at a news conference.

Figure Skating Championships at the 8,250-seat Palavela, featuring an arching cement roof resembling a billowing sail.

Workers were still painting and tinkering with wires days before the event, but completed the job just in time.

The Palavela also hosted the European short-track speedskating championships last month, drawing full crowds for a sport with little following in Italy.

Cross-country ski races took place Jan. 22-23 in Pragelato; bobsled and skeleton events were held Jan. 29-23, and huge events were scheduled for Feb. 5-6 in Cesana Pariol, but were canceled. In December, the World Cup ski circuit made its annual stop in Sestriere, a resort founded by Fiat's Agnelli family that will be the center for Alpine events during the Olympics.

Ice sports will be in downtown Turin and snow events in Sestriere and surrounding villages,

about 62 miles from the city. There will be three Olympic villages — one in Turin for 2,500 athletes and coaches and two more in the mountains for an equal number of competitors. Housing problems remain in the Alpine zone for fans, media and others.

The organizing committee (TOROC) is encouraging the expansion of existing hotels and asking residents to open up their vacation homes for some of the 1.5 million spectators expected during the games.

There also are tentative plans to house some of TOROC's work force in temporary housing.

"We've done a lot of work. (Accommodation) was a very delicate, difficult matter. In our candidacy, it was one of our weakest points," Castellani said.

In November, Castellani — a former left-leaning mayor of Turin — threatened to resign as local Olympics chief in the face of mounting criticism from Italy's right-leaning government and a budget shortfall of \$235 million.

In the end, Castellani stayed on, although he must now work with a government-appointed supervisor, Mario Pescante, a sports and cultural undersecretary who is also an IOC member.

It's been unclear how the two men will share responsibility, but they've avoided any conflict so far.

"My role is president of the organizing committee. The role of Mario Pescante, alongside me on behalf of the government, is to be a special sort of go-between," Castellani said.

"I'm here morning until night, he's here part-time," Castellani said in an interview at TOROC's bustling headquarters in a northern Turin neighborhood.

The budget gap, now reduced to \$196 million, is due mainly to a

lack of support from state-owned companies. But TOROC and the government say the funds should be secured soon.

TOROC's operating budget is around \$1.5 billion. That doesn't count funds spent by the government on infrastructure projects.

"For someone's personal budget, \$196 million is a stratospheric figure, but it's only [a fraction] of the entire games' cost," Castellani said.

IOC President Jacques Rogge met with Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi in November in Rome to press for government assistance in financing and promoting the Games.

"At the end of the day, I'm sure the Italian government will do the necessary thing," Felli said.

For decades, Turin was a city dominated by Fiat, with migrant workers from the south filling the automaker's factories. Now, with Fiat fallen on hard times, the population is dwindling and the games are being used to revitalize depressed areas.

In fact, Italy's former industrial capital is being transformed like no other Winter Games host city. The city currently resembles a giant construction site, with cranes dotting the skyline.

A new subway system, high-speed rail links to Paris and Milan and a new central train station are just some of the major works in progress.

Castellani said his city is using Barcelona — the Spanish site of the 1992 Summer Games that turned itself into one of Europe's cultural capitals — as its model.

"We studied Barcelona very closely. The Olympics enabled Barcelona to rediscover its waterfront. I think the Olympics will enable Turin to rediscover the Alps," Castellani said with a nod to the

distant snowcapped mountains visible from his top-floor office.

"Being the city of the Winter Olympics, we won't be just the city of Fiat and the city of factories anymore, but the city of the Alps."

But can Turin also be a city of sports?

"We don't have any sporting culture, at least not for these sports. People don't even go to the stadium to watch soccer here," said Antonio Catabano, a 31-year-old resident of Venaria Reale just outside Turin.

Juventus, one of Europe's most famous soccer clubs, plays most of its home matches inside a half-filled stadium.

"I think the Olympics will be different, it's a one-time opportunity and I think people will make sacrifices," Catabano said as he left an Olympic exhibition set up in one of Turin's main squares, alongside a temporary ice skating rink.

Booed by large crowds at the speedskating and figure skating events, Castellani is confident the fans will come out a year from now.

"We've already sold more than half of the tickets," he said. "The Olympic Games have a special attraction and the Italian team is strong at winter sports."

But Castellani wants to do more than just put on a sporting event — he wants to offer the Olympics a slice of Italian style, culture and cuisine.

"I think that is what our country is loved for," he said. "I hope that the spectators immerse themselves in our offering of culture, shopping, music and museums, good food and fine wines."

"I realize that the core business of the Olympics are the races. But for the spectators, the races are just one part of it all."

AP Sports Writer Stephen Willan in London contributed to this report.

Athletes test Olympic venues' readiness

Skating, skiing get high marks; track deemed dangerous

By JO-ANN BARNAS
Knight Ridder Newspapers

DETROIT — As far as he could tell, everything was going well.

Mark Grimmette of Muskegon, Mich., knew January had been a successful turn-around month for organizers of the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy. An array of test events had inaugurated several venues without the alarming headlines that seemed to accompany every turn of last summer's Athens Olympics.

A cross-country ski race in the mountain valley of Pragelato had gone off without a hitch. Larger-than-expected crowds flocked to the Palavelle skating rink in Turin ("Torino" in Italian) for the European championships in figure skating and short-track speedskating.

Bobsled and skeleton produced successful back-to-back competitions at Cesana — at the same track where Grimmette, a two-time Olympic medalist with luge doubles partner Brian Martin, were hoping for quality racing in last weekend's World Cup.

Before it was canceled, that is. Grimmette was settled in his hotel in the winter tourist destination of Sestriere when he got word last Thursday that the International Luge Federation had canceled the weekend's races because of safety issues concerning the track.

Five crashes involving injuries had occurred during practice last week. The most seriously hurt was a Brazilian luger who suffered head injuries when his sled overturned on a run.

"They have to work on some of the curves," Grimmette said by phone from Sestriere, where he was packing for his return flight to the United States. "It's a safety issue."

Grimmette cited concerns with curves 17-18 — "a lefty with a narrow window of making the curve correctly," he said — though the luge federation didn't specify which areas of the highly technical track need to be simplified.

In early January, Grimmette and Martin, who won Olympic silver in 2002 and



Japan's Koshun Tojo slides down the track during a men's skeleton World Cup competition at the Cesana-Pariol track, northern Italy on Jan. 20. Competitions at the track have been cancelled after five crashes occurred during practice runs and the track was deemed unsafe.

bronze in 1998, were the first luge doubles team to christen the Olympic track at the request of the Italians.

"We had six runs," Grimmette said of the ceremonial opening. "The first two were singles, and the next four were doubles. The track is in fairly decent shape, but it's not an easy track. After the track crew has a chance to work on it — we found that out in Nagano and Salt Lake City — over time it becomes easier. We're still discovering where the driving points are and how to use the pressures efficiently, and that can be a difficult process."

"Brian and I were looking forward to racing here, but we understand why they called the event."

With the Games one year away, last weekend's cancellation of the luge World Cup was a black eye Olympic organizers wanted to avoid.

Preparations already had been slowed by construction delays, just as they were in Athens. The hockey arena won't be finished until late summer or early fall. And, just like every Games, transportation is a major concern because of few major highways.

Last week in Sestriere, Grimmette

stayed at a hotel next to a construction site that, when finished, will serve as one of three Olympic Villages. The other two will be in Turin and Bardonecchia. "We're seeing the cranes constructing it as we speak," said Grimmette, 34. "It looks like Salt Lake did about a year out. Where we are right now, it's all mountain roads — no highways."

The United States finished second to Germany in the medal count at the 2002 Salt Lake Olympics, 35-34. The medal count was an all-time high for the Americans — almost triple their best previous total.

Three years later, the U.S. team is in the midst of its best pre-Olympic season in recent history. Last weekend affirmed that with several outstanding performances, including Bode Miller's downhill skiing title at the world championships in Bormio, Italy. It was a first for the United States. Teammate Daron Rahvles finished second.

Shani Davis and Chad Hedrick went 1-2 overall at the world all-around speedskating championships in Moscow, and Jeremy Bloom won the four straight World Cup in moguls in Inawashiro, Japan. Another American, Jeret Peterson, won a World Cup in aerials Saturday in Beijing.

Other highlights this season include a victory by woman bobsledders Jean Racine of Waterford and brakeman Vanetta Flowers in last weekend's World Cup event at St. Moritz, Switzerland.

Before he suffered a foot injury in a freak accident at the Olympic track in Italy, men's bobsledder Todd Hays had picked up two World Cup victories in the four-man event this winter.

Women's long-track speedskater Jennifer Rodriguez recently captured the world sprint championships in her sport.

In figure skating, Michelle Kwan, Sasha Cohen, Johnny Weir and Tim Goebel remain America's best hopes for a medal in women's and men's singles in Turin. They will compete using the new computerized points-based system instead of the century-old 6.0 scale that spawned the judging controversy in the pairs event at the 2002 Winter Games.

Still unsettled is the makeup of the U.S. men's Olympic hockey team because of the NHL lockout. There will be a team, but no one knows what form it will take — college kids or a roster of NHL veterans. The men's and women's teams will be looking to win gold medals after losing their respective championship games to Canada at the Salt Lake Games.

U.S. sets ambitious goals for medal haul in Italy

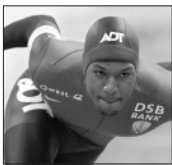
By EDDIE PELLIS
The Associated Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Leaders of the U.S. Olympic movement have set easily understood goals for Turin — win the most gold medals and the most medals overall.

"Our athletes don't enter competitions to finish second," U.S. Olympic Committee chief executive Jim Scherr said.

History, however, indicates the goals will be tough to reach.

Competing on home turf in 2002, the Americans finished with 34 medals, breaking their own Winter Olympics record by a staggering 21, but still finishing with one fewer medal than top winner Germany.



Speedskater Shani Davis led a 1-2 U.S. finish in the world championships and could be a contender for an Olympic medal in Turin.

While Scherr refuses to set a specific numerical goal, like the mark of 100 U.S. leaders set for

the Athens Summer Games (the U.S. won 103), he thinks it will take about 30 medals to lead all countries next year in Italy.

If the United States continues moving forward as it has been, 30 is well within reach. The more daunting trend, however, is the one that shows countries win an average of 47 percent fewer medals in the Olympics that come after those they host.

"We might not get there in Torino. We might. But our goal is still to win," Scherr said.

Unlike many former winter hosts, the United States is a large country with plentiful resources. Steve Roush, the USOC's chief of sport performance, said the United States has not suffered the traditional post-hosting money hang-

over. In fact, he said overall USOC funding to the winter sport programs has increased between 2002 and 2006 to around \$35 million.

Over the next month or so, Roush will begin gauging America's chances by looking at how athletes are doing in a number of world championship events going on around the globe. Specifically, he'll be charting the top eight finishers in each event; the more Americans among those lists, the more optimistic his projections will be.

Early signs show the Americans definitely have the athletes to hit the target.

Skiers Bode Miller and Daron Rahvles are at or near the top in the world — part of a men's al-

pine team that has set a goal of winning five medals. The American women have Lindsey Kildow and Kristina Koznick, each of whom have won races this year.

The United States dominated in newer sports like snowboarding and freestyle skiing in 2002. Figure skating has produced medals for the U.S. at every Olympics since 1948. Short-track speed skater Apolo Ohno won two medals in Salt Lake and is leading the World Cup standings this season.

Roush said the key to American success is its ever-growing depth in several sports.

"That's the way to ensure more chances of medaling, because on any given day, anyone can rise up and perform," Roush said. "When you just have one, it's the hope and the prayer. They may not be on that day."

San Francisco to host All-Star Game in 2007

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig will be in San Francisco on Wednesday to announce that the Giants will host the 2007 All-Star Game.

It was widely reported during the World Series in October that the Giants would get the game, but Selig now will make it official.

This will be the city's first time staging baseball's midsummer classic since 1984, and a great

chance to showcase SBC Park, the Giants' beautiful waterfront stadium that opened in 2000. The club has topped 3 million in attendance all five seasons since the ballpark opened — thanks in large part to the popularity of slugger Barry Bonds.

The Giants had no official announcement Tuesday, but have acknowledged in the past they had long been considered a favorite to host the game.

The last time the city had the



All-Star Game was July 10, 1984, at Candlestick Park, where the National League won 3-1.

This will be the first time in more than 40 years that the All-Star Game won't alternate between the American and National Leagues. Detroit hosts next summer's game, then Pittsburgh has

the 2006 event — meaning the NL will host two straight games.

Schilling could be ready for Opening Day

BOSTON — Curt Schilling might be ready for Opening Day after all.

The Boston Red Sox ace who underwent ankle surgery after the team won the World Series is throwing again, and manager Terry Francona wouldn't be shocked if Schilling starts against

the Yankees and their new pitching star in the season opener April 3 in New York.

"It gives him a target date to shoot for," Francona said Tuesday. "It's the Yankees. It's Randy Johnson. That revs him up even more."

Schilling told The Associated Press on Tuesday that pitching the opener was still his goal. "I'm feeling very good about things now," he said.

On Feb. 14, he told WEEI-AM radio that his rehabilitation was taking longer than he had expected and said, "As of right now, the timetable looks something later than Opening Day."

General Manager Theo Epstein received an encouraging update Tuesday from one of the team's trainers.

"The club is very happy with the progress he's made," Epstein said. "It's premature (to say) he'll be ready by Opening Day, but we like the progress he made from the surgery and his throwing program's going well."

Pitchers and catchers are scheduled to report to Boston's spring training camp in Fort Myers, Fla., on Feb. 17. Schilling, who has spent most of the offseason at his home in Arizona, said he began throwing "a while ago," but emphasized that it's too early for him to make a solid prediction about when he can pitch in the regular season.

Martinez reports early to spring training

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — Pedro Martinez started his first season with the New York Mets earlier than expected.

Martinez surprised the team Tuesday by showing up early for spring training, 10 days before the first scheduled workout for pitchers, catchers and players coming off injuries. He had said he would arrive on the voluntary reporting date (Feb. 17), but later decided to make the short trip from his home in Miami.

"I'm just here to work out," Martinez said. "I need to continue working just like I was doing in the Dominican. And there's no better place to do it since I live so close."

The 33-year-old Martinez lifted weights and played long toss, and plans to throw off a mound on Wednesday.

The former Red Sox ace signed a \$53 million, four-year contract with New York in December and wanted to set an example for his new teammates. This offseason, Mets General Manager Omar Minaya also added free-agent center fielder Carlos Beltran and first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz, Martinez's former teammate in Boston.

Silva, Twins agree to contract

MINNEAPOLIS — Right-hander Carlos Silva and the Minnesota Twins avoided arbitration by agreeing Tuesday to a two-year contract that guarantees him \$5.05 million.

Silva went 14-8 with a 4.21 ERA in 2003 innings last year for the three-time AL Central champions. He threw one shutout and allowed 255 hits with 35 walks and 76 strikeouts. He finished fourth in the AL in fewest walks per nine innings (1.6) and pitched six or more innings in 24 of his 33 starts.

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SPORTS



Browns make it official,
put Crennel in charge
of rebuilding, Page 27

Notre Dame ends BC streak

Eagles suffer same fate as UCLA, others in South Bend

BY TOM COYNE
The Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Boston College found out what top-ranked teams UCLA, DePaul and San Francisco learned in years past — Notre Dame isn't where undefeated teams want to play.

Colin Falls matched his career high with 23 points, and Chris Thomas added 19 points and nine assists as the Irish ended the fourth-ranked Eagles' 20-game winning streak and handed them their first loss of the season, 68-65 Tuesday night.

Boston College junior Craig Smith said the loss had nothing to do with the pressure of trying to stay undefeated. The key was the Irish caught the Eagles a little off guard with their zone defense, then shot 51 percent themselves.

"They got us out of our offense because of their defense and due to the fact they also were hitting shots," he said. "When you're home, it's like that."

Smith, BC's leading scorer at 18.7 points a game, missed his final eight shots and finished 4-for-14 for nine points.

"We just made mistakes that allowed Notre Dame opportunities that we normally don't make. We have to learn from that," BC coach Al Skinner said. "The thing I'm most concerned about was our lapses on defense. We knew what we wanted to do, but at times we were just zoning out."

Skinner said the loss was disappointing, but it won't prevent the Eagles from accomplishing their goals.

"Being unbeaten, that's nice and all, but that's not our goal," he said. "Our goal is to be as successful as we can in the league. The fact of the matter is, we're in first place."

The Eagles (20-1, 9-1 Big East), playing their first game this season on national TV,



Boston College guard Sean Marshall (23) and Nate Doornekamp (13) watch from the bench as time runs out on their 20-game winning streak in South Bend, Ind. Notre Dame, which has a history of ending winning streaks at home, upset the No. 4 Eagles 68-65.

and top-ranked Illinois (24-0) were the only unbeaten teams left in Division I. The Illini are alone now, surviving a scare before beating Michigan 57-51 Tuesday night.

Louis Hinnant, who had 13 points, said the Eagles knew it would be tough to go un-

defeated in the Big East, even if they were the first team in conference history to start the season 20-0.

"We feel we don't have anything to hang our heads over," he said. "We just have to try to keep getting victories."

The Irish squandered an 11-point lead in

the final six minutes at No. 8 Syracuse on Saturday before losing 60-57. They held a 62-54 lead over Boston College, but the Eagles closed to 62-59 as Jared Dudley made two free throws and then converted a three-point play.

SEE STREAK ON PAGE 25



Nash scores season-high 33 points, but Suns' victory isn't sealed until Stoudemire blocks Kings' final shot

Page 26



Turin has picked up the pace, now on track for Winter Games in one year

Page 28



Teammate says McNabb was so ill in fourth quarter of Super Bowl that he couldn't call a play in the huddle

Page 27

Men's giant slalom postponed when television workers strike Page 27